

STOP, LOOK & LISTEN

Issue no. 2
Autumn 2005
Hard Core
Fanzine



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Rasaraja dasa/108 * Charge * Forced Forward * Soulfire
Youngblood Rec. * A Step Apart * Abandon Ship

Awareness. Change. Expression.

"It's what I have inside, It's what I had inside,

One O Eight— "Path Of Truth"



Hi,

This is Stop, Look & Listen number two.

This issue has come out of a lot of confusion and distraction, but I'm glad it's out and I can share it with you.

Well, I guess the biggest thing would be the most recent one, which is hurricane Wilma. Last year started this series of continual storms and hurricanes, but it didn't effect me personally too much. This year's season I have just moved south of the state to get ready for a trip to Europe and finish this issue, when the eye of the hurricane went through our town. There was no electricity and so on, but it's the outside damage that is hard to describe. I used to see trees down in one part of the town or another, but now it's wherever you go. One long landscape of broken branches, trees ripped out of the ground with roots, hanging power lines and smashed cars. Thankfully, people showed more awareness, and there are not many casualties. This hurricane was definitely less serious when compared to Katrina and the damage in New Orleans. But personally it was quite an experience that just showed me again how small we are as humans in this world. All it takes is some hot water in the ocean, air and a power is created that no human or machine invented by us can stop. All we can do is hide in our own corners and hope for as little damage as possible. Where does our pride go? Where is our notion that we are the masters and can do to the environment whatever we please? We're small and unimportant when it comes to the forces of nature. Yet, we still mess with it.

Getting back to "Stop, Look & Listen"...I got overwhelmed by the responses I got after the first issue came out. I'd like to sincerely express my appreciation to everyone who bought the zine, read it, and sometimes even shared their opinions and reflections. That really means a lot to me so thanks for showing interest and giving "Stop, Look & Listen" your attention. Well, to clarify a few things that kind of came up in the last few months....

There were some really supportive things said about the first issue, but I'd like to say that whatever I put in this zine is simply about what bothers me, makes me happy or inspires me. I'm not trying to intellectualize or play a wise ass. I struggle like anybody else to make some sense out of this world and this zine is my outlet for all these emotions. Also Hard Core (and what it stands for) has been a huge part of my life for some time now so things I put in this zine might be reflecting it in this way. Like always I'm open for any exchange of ideas and communication, so please feel more than welcome to get in touch.

Another thing is that I don't put the mailing address in the zine as I've been moving quite a lot and it'd be hard to give one address. If you would like to send a letter, stuff for review or just say "Hi" please email me and I'll give you my most recent address. That causes another thing that bugs me sometimes.

AWARENESS. CHANGE. EXPRESSION.

it's what I must discover it's what I must recover"

For me Hard Core has always been about supporting your local scene and people involved. As much as I'd like to do it and present it in "Stop, Look & Listen" it's been hard considering the fact that in the last few years I've lived in many different countries. That makes it kind of hard to focus on one place and feel like you actually belong. Of course I try to support the scene in any place I go to by attending shows, buying demos from bands or simply donating a few bucks if I can. But I can't say where I belong to at the moment. Therefore Hard Core has become for me even more an international thing, and I think this is reflected in this zine. I present some of the bands that have been important for me personally rather than concentrate on one place and promote bands from certain region.

Interviews, questions asked and other stuff that you can find on these pages have the role of presenting people and ideas that are important to me and them. I'm not trying to be super original. Also I'm not trying to overdo anything and place emptiness in the center in exchange for visual quality. At least that's not how I see it, and not something I strive for.

All the interviews are done with bands and people that seem interesting to me and the questions I ask may be repeating themselves, but it's the given answers that make a difference. I must also say that bands do not necessarily have to agree with my opinions expressed on these pages, and vice versa.

It's all about presenting things, and everyone can make up their own mind. Lots of things have happened in recent months as far as shows and records.

I think one of the most inspiring was the 108 reunion show. The first big news was the cancellation of Hellfest. I felt sorry for all those people that traveled from many distant places for this fest and at the last minute were informed about the cancellation, often already having been on the East Coast. But then I couldn't have been happier getting news that 108 will play two smaller shows in Philadelphia. The first one was headlined by them at Unitarian Church and on the bill appeared as well: Outbreak, Good Clean Fun, Champion and Betrayed. The second show 108 played in support of Lifetime, in a much bigger venue with a much bigger crowd. Both shows were absolutely amazing, especially the first one which was more intimate, but still very energetic and emotional. What can I say? I have no words to describe the feeling of listening to those songs live after such a long time.

Form the first chords of "Opposition" 108 proved that their lives as individuals might have changed, but their music, the emotion behind it and sincerity with which it's being expressed are still the same. Another great news is that the band decided to carry on and try to write new material! I personally can't wait. I'd like to thank Rasaraja dasa for giving me time again and answering my questions. I'd like to thank also SXE.DC kids for their company in Philly as well as Jeff Lasich (Start X Today Fanzine) and Robbie Redcheeks for sharing their great pictures of both shows and letting me use them in this issue!

Sorry for the long introduction, but I have felt a need to explain a few things. I hope you'll find something good in this issue, and something to think about as well. I hope to have # 3 ready for January/February 2006. Until then...

Keep Your Eyes Open,

R.
stoplooklistenhc@yahoo.com xstoplookandlistenx@gmail.com

HARD CORE FANZINE AUTUMN ' 05

This issue came out thank to kindness of the following:
 Rasaraja dasa and 108, ShawnZ and Charge, Rich & Courtney and Forced Forward, Erik Anarchy, Sean and Youngblood Records, Arjan and A Step Apart, Apostolis (Greece), Rob and Abandon Ship.

I'd like to thank for the support and help:

Luke W., Adam @ Revelation Records, Ronald @ Not Just Words Records, Soulfire, Grave Mistake Records, Marcin and everyone who has written expressing their support.

On the cover:

Rasaraja dasa of 108 during their reunion show August 2005. Picture was taken by Robbie Redcheeks and used with his permission.

Photo credits include:

Jeff Lasich (Start x Today Fanzine), Robbie Redcheeks, Dziki, Bartłomiej Glanda, Even Score, Inourhands.se, Jane Flood, Todd Pollock, Collen Wood, IwishIwascool.com, Kris Range, Courage To Care, Jade Tree, Benoit Pepin.

Issue no. 1 is still available !

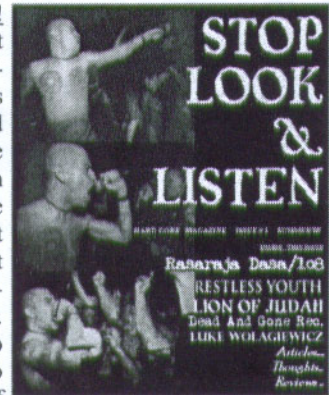
Inside you can find first part of the interview with Rasaraja dasa, as well as Restless Youth, Lion Of Judah, Dead & Gone Records, Luke Wolagiewicz, Absolution history, reviews and some more boring stuff by me. It does not really look different than this issue as far as layout and designs:

If you are interested drop me a line or visit the website for details and list of

distros that have "Stop, Look & Listen" in their boxes.

Please visit website for some live recordings, demos and general info:

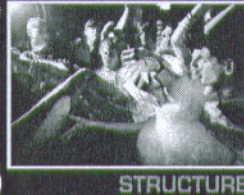
WWW.STOPLOOKANDLISTENZINE.COM



NOT JUST WORDS RECORDS

A STEP APART - Structure 7"

The follow-up to their highly acclaimed debut EP 'There Is A Choice'. Influenced by traditional youthcrew bands like Chain of Strength and Insted, with a Mouthpiece vibe and some Dag Nasty melodies in addition, ASA again managed to deliver their message in their own unique way.



STRUCTURE

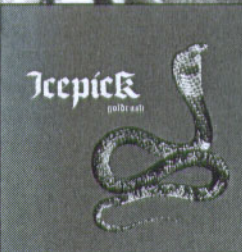


REMAIN - As sharp as knives 7"

Featuring ex-members of The Dead Scenesters and Spirit 84, Remain is ready to blow you away with solid, honest, pissed off and anger fueled hardcore. Expect no hypes, expect no fake poses on this debut 8 song 7". Strongly recommended for fans of Floorpunch, Chorus of Disapproval.

NO TURNING BACK - Rise from the ashes 7"

No Turning Back dug even deeper in the search for their definition of true hardcore. Their new songs sound harder, meaner and more aggressive then ever before. Less 'toughguy' than their previous work, but this is pure, unadulterated and pissed off hardcore



ICEPICK - Goldrush CD

One of Holland's most promising bands has been digging the gold. Inspired by the work of the great old New York bands Bad Brains and Cro-Mags and with lyricism reflecting the heart and soul of the frontman, a better follow up to their promising demo is hardly imaginable.



Next up: TURN THE SCREW 7" - NOTHING DONE LP - TRUE COLORS 7"

Last copies available: INTERNAL AFFAIRS LP - MY LUCK 7" - A STEP APART 1st. 7"

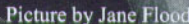
NOT JUST WORDS
RECORDS

DE KLING 4 - 8651 CK IJLST - THE NETHERLANDS
 WWW.NJWRECORDS.COM - INFO@NJWRECORDS.COM

CHARGE

UNIVERSAL TRIBE

I owe big thank you to ShawnZ for all the patience and doing this interview. Support this band !!! R.

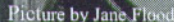


We never even did a tour when the record was released, we had no money, no van and no clue even what to do. It's been a year or so since the EP came out and I honestly just feel like not to many people know about us. Certain places show love because we have been out there a number of times. We have built a fan base in some areas. They get the vibe, they talk with the band and we all enjoy the music together.

As far as what I want people to rebel against, I can't really say for others. Personally I am just dealing on a more personal level right now. The root of everything destructive and creative happening on the outside lies inside us. I had a realization about some of my own personal demons that I feel are my top priority. Working through them and becoming open to a more positive energy. I would say



"Sight perceives all tricknology. Sight release us from captivity. Sight will smash down this hypocrisy. Synthetic information has replaced communication. Yes, we can vaporized disguise. Those who seek shall find the eye for all is not blind. Sight is the vision of identity. Sight illuminates us mentally. Sight, reality is what is what they call blasphemy. Sound the alarm. The citizens are sleeping. Those who seek shall find." "Eye For All"



Anything is possible! So yes it is possible for unity on earth, why not? But what is stopping it is ourselves, humanity as a collective stops it from happening. So again I think it's about heading inside ourselves and getting honest. For society to change it must start with the individual. It starts small, sometimes we can be so focused on the big picture and then we realize damn, I'm treating people in my day to day like shit. So I have pretty much shrunk my perspective down a bit and just figure the best I can do is the best for those in my life. It's better to start small and be realistic with goals.

We have been working on the songs for a while now and have played three of them in our live set. Right now we are basically in the fine tuning process with the songs but we seem to keep coming up with new ideas for new songs. We also have a lot of unused/unfinished material from the "Eye for All" and "Universal Tribe" days. So this EP may very well turn into an LP. We just felt that we needed to get some new music out to everyone and due to work, family, etc we have time restraints. So for now we are saying an EP but it very well may be more, see what happens. As far as the music it is a progression from "Universal Tribe" in the sense that we have become better at what we do which is writing songs. The root is the same which is hardcore/punk/heavy music. Then we have our little spices so to speak, the Reggae, Hip Hop, Funk and Jam vibes. Those things are there but we always like to keep it tasteful and balanced. When the record is complete there will be some little



Picture by Jane Flood

Hey Trooper. Dem Troopers. Dem Troopers. Dem Troopers.
Damn Troopers. Damn Troopers. Damn Troopers."
"Dem Troopers"

Do you have any plans to tour Europe or other places outside the US?

"Try to make me bow
down to you. Try to
take my identity.
Try to make me just
another pebble on
the beach.

A green mind twists
the plan. A cold
hand trying to
silence me.

You reach out to
grasp me, but I'm
out of reach. No
Spiritual
Surrender."

Inside Out.

"No Spiritual
Surrender".



Don't you feel tired of living where everybody tries to label you, thinking like they know you just because you belong to some place or was brought up in a certain tradition? Instead of reaching inside we just keep putting layer upon layer creating this thick mass of falsity covering what's deep inside and hiding behind this growing shell. Nationality, race, place of birth, sexuality, gender, pride of being this or that when in the end we all go towards the same. We all avoid pain, search for happiness... We may enjoy loneliness, but at one point it will hit us with it's cold. We want to feel warmth of somebody's arms and do not want to be scared. Billions of unique living beings sharing similar fears and desires. Still, we will look at others not being able to stop ourselves from judging, making assumptions based on their external and allow ourselves to feeling superior.

I want to dig deeper, to get underneath the dirt and pain that's been adding up over the years. I want to dig deeper than what I was told by television, school, charlatans trying to gain my faith or lying politicians making confident statements. My heart has proven it to be wrong many times in my experiences. It has also made clear that there is something more to this, than biological definition of my being, numbers describing my life and chemical substances creating my emotions and feelings. Some would tell me that this "something more" I'm wondering about is just another state of mind, some kind of social fantasy or "drug" that has not been fully defined yet. I've got no doubt that sooner or later science will narrow it to a definition in a book. After this they may finally strip me of everything that I thought makes me human and reduce it a machine. I'm meant to be limited to a ZERO, number that can be easily coded and manipulated if somebody else adds ONE to it. I'm destined to be reduced to silence and let my heart and soul freeze. My free will and ability to be able to make choices may still stand in their way. But I'm sure they will create a process of making me more predictable. Machine, but whose behavior hopefully will be controllable by directing subjects of desires onto senses. That would probably guarantee submission, like a dog in a cage that runs each time the light goes on and the bone is dropped.

I'm tired of being labeled and want to keep looking within myself. I want to dig deeper to really SEE. I want to dig deeper to really FEEL. I'm tired of people finding new ways to classify me, but nobody really caring what my heart tells me and my soul desires. I'm tired of forming clay to create a new mask each time the new norm and social expectation comes in. I want to dig deeper to learn about myself and then look at what surrounds me and start building a relationship. I want to find what I have inside... and never freeze.

XXX
R.

THINK AND GROW

We try to quench our thirst by
pouring sand down our throats
Livin a lie, no wonder why
True happiness seems so remote

Gotta unlearn – gotta let go
Of what we think we know
We gotta think and grow
Think and grow!

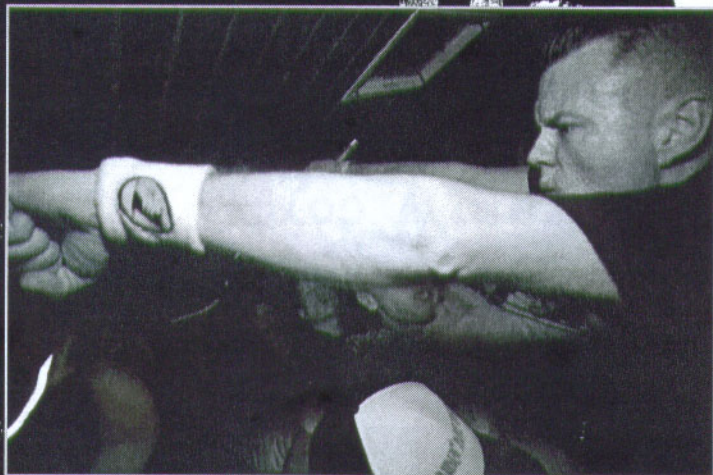
They can't wait for us to take their bait
No shackles on our feet but on our souls
They wanna separate what we create
Unchain our brains – fuck their mind control

Gotta unlearn – gotta let go
Of what we think we know
We gotta think and grow
Think and grow!

Gotta light the lantern that will lead
The way out of the darkness of greed

To unlearn. To let go.
To learn. To think. To grow.

SOULFIRE



"Think & Grow" is the name of a zine I was (am?) supposed to do with my friend Even Score (Damage Control). We took the name from the self help manual Think and Grow Rich by Napoleon Hill – a huge inspiration on the Bad Brains, and if I'm not mistaken, where the term "Positive Mental Attitude" was first coined.

Now, we might never grow rich, but that's not the growth we seek. Far from it, when I made a song out of it, I wanted it to take a clear stance against greed, against craving for and clinging to riches, against succumbing to the hollow values of consumerist society.

No matter how much you buy, you'll always be left wanting more. That's the insane logic of capitalist expansion. Bigger, better, more, more, more. I want to tame the "I want" mind. I strive for detachment from our senseless attempts to quench our insatiable desires, creating more pain and in the end no gain. It's like we're drinking salt water, or "pouring sand

down our throats". I seek the truth, not the many distractions from it.

Ever since we were kids, our minds have been programmed, instilled on the "I, me and mine" mode. The process of unlearning, of breaking free from their grasp, is not an easy one. We must cultivate awareness, understanding and compassion in a world that promotes the opposite. We must find a guiding light that will lead the way out of the darkness of greed. Search within...

Think and Grow!

Erik Anarchy, Soulfire

PS: Soulfire is a Norwegian hardcore band, and "Think and Grow" is one of three songs on our demo. It's all available on myspace.com/soulfirehc. Thanks to Robert for giving us the chance to express ourselves in one of our favorite zines. Get in touch, we're here to communicate...



Pictures
courtesy of :

EVEN SCORE

**INOUR-
HANDS.SE**

Rasaraja dasa/108 part 2

Pic: Jeff Lasich



108 . Ressurrection . Release . The Judas Factor

So were you disappointed with the cancellation of Hellfest? How did you manage to organize two shows in such a limited amount of time? Were you satisfied with the response you got?

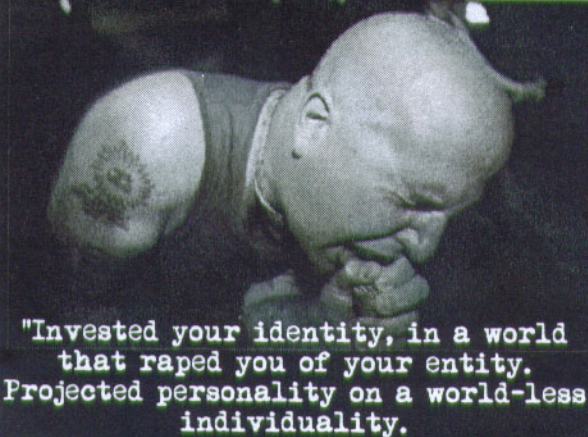
We weren't disappointed, per say, although it was definitely a little nerve wracking when we first learned the news. Our decision to play a show had little to do with the setting, Hellfest, rather the offer simply got us to think about the prospects once again. There would always be the issues of how; the band is literally spread all over the US so how everyone could afford the time away from work/family, travel, places to stay, practice time, etc. was an issue that a setting like Hellfest allowed us to not worry as they were to cover the expenses while giving proceeds to a cause we all felt was a great way to celebrate the event. When we learned of the cancellation we had already been

"Curse of instinct is never knowing peace. Even pain is welcome when you can not feel a thing and it's only getting harder to fit together the pieces, when they won't fit. It only gets lonelier when you're stuck outside, caught in a void, drown in denial and it's only getting harder to fit together the pieces, it only gets lonelier when you are stuck outside. You can't fit together the pieces and you're ripped apart by the void, the emptiness, in you, the emptiness in you. I won't hide it anymore, I won't hide it anymore... The emptiness, the void, the void in my heart... the you, can you feel it, can you feel the emptiness, in you."

108- "Curse of instinct"

offered other shows in the NYC/Philly area so we knew we would get to play somewhere. Right away Robby Redcheeks and Sean Agnew, r5 Productions, lined up possible shows. The delay was in finding venues which didn't happen until late Thursday. When the first show with Lifetime sold out so quickly Robby put together a second Saturday show which was announced on Friday morning. Both shows sold out and were great. Even while preparing for Hellfest we planned to announce a 108 show, to happen on Thursday, on Wednesday evening. The thinking was that although Hellfest made the logistics of getting us all together and ready to play Hellfest wasn't exactly "our" setting. We thought a smaller and more intimate show was important to us all and would allow those who just wanted to see 108 in a smaller setting the opportunity to do so.

...The struggle for the real emotion of soul.



"Invested your identity, in a world
that raped you of your entity.
Projected personality on a world-less
individuality.

I look deep in your eyes and I see no
one. I look deep into your eyes: no
one.

My color and my fire sapped by the
external objects I desire. I drown in
my melodrama. My soul leaks out the
cracks.

I looked in my eyes and I saw no one.
I stared a mile into my smile, no one.
No one no more.

I know I'm someone. And I know that
there is something more. I know your
world is nothing, nothing in it for
me anymore. I turn my back on your
corpse hearted "reality".

I walk right out that door.
I disaccept your nothingness.
I'm your no one no more"

108— "Noonenomore".



Both shows were amazing. It was surreal to play those songs again with Vic and Triv and the crowd response was great. Personally it was a liberating feeling as I got to take back a part of my life that was a bit lost on me due to all that I was going through during that period of my life and especially after the band had broken up.

What were your feelings about 108 after you left CBGB's stage in 1996 (your last show), and what were your first emotions when you got on stage in Philly? Did those 9 years change anything in your approach towards this band and all the songs? Had you ever thought that 108 would reform to write music again?

Well leaving the stage of CB's I personally felt a sense of relief. As I touched upon before that period was extremely difficult for me personally and it is important for me to step away from everything for my own sanity. I had also become rather disappointed in the Punk/Hardcore scene. Many shows were marred with violence and just the environment had changed drastically. The early to mid 90's Punk/Hardcore scene was very special to me as there was a definite uprising in social, political and spiritual topics and debate which I personally felt was great. At that particular time the scene was evolving in ways that I couldn't relate to.

Returning brought about very different feelings than what I experienced before. I felt more connection to the songs albeit a different type of connection to the meanings. The songs, as we played them, was about our experiences, struggles and being; whereas before there was that same base but also we were caught in the moment and some of the externals. Coupled with all I was going through it was just a different experience.

Upon our return from the shows we decided that we would get together to see if we can continue that naturally rhythm we had and start to write new songs together. If it falls into place we will record and begin playing again.... if not it was a great memory. If all works well we will be back playing a few show in Southern California around the end of the year and will work on a new record for release next year. That will lead to shows back East and on the West Coast as well as a trip to Europe.

What had happened that you decided to start The Judas Factor? Was there something that you didn't manage to achieve with your previous bands that made you start another project?

Well I had time away from music but had continued to write so a few friends, both old and new, encouraged me to work on

"...Where is sleep to hide me from the fact that you're so absent from me heart?

a project which I named The Judas Factor. Initially it was two practices and re-record an EP and then play a few shows. We then decided that we wanted to do more. At that point I knew that I wanted to do something very different from the EP and that if I was going to do a band that I would have to make it something that deeply represented what was going through and to simply let it all out. As far as achievements: I never felt that I had made "my record". Something that encapsulated who I was as a person and all that I had/was experiencing; that was the goal with the Ballads in Blue China LP. Of course Ressurrection and 108 were dear to me but they were more what I would term as "message oriented" bands whereas The Judas Factor was strictly about my person as opposed to beliefs.

I think a lot of people experienced "Ballads In Blue China" as an album filled with pain, darkness, struggles with ones own past all on a very deep level... What emotions ran through you while writing the songs that appeared on this LP? How much autobiographical are these songs?

It was a very "heavy" record in terms of how much of my personal life and struggles that I was laying out. For me it was a liberating experience; these very aspects of my life had driven me into deep depression, to attempted suicide and just a dismal experience so to be able to finally acknowledge those things to myself, in my songs and to others was really liberating. Those songs completely represented that period of my life. It is still a record that personally moves me in a deep way.

Could you say something more about the song "Beauty Mark"? Do you ever find yourself even a little closer to be at peace with this experience? How did it influence you in being a parent?

You know I don't think you can ever find peace in such experiences. Those experiences, those feelings, I experience them and have glimpses every day. Even outside of direct images or feelings relating to my experiences with sexual abuse it had a profound effect on my very person. I still feel like a two dimensional figure and experience deep mood swings and an inability to just enjoy my surroundings. I am still a bit of a wreck; I simply don't go to some of the extremes I did in the past.



Where is sleep to hide me from the fact that I'm too dead to even care?..."

"I'll try for you, I'd try for you, try, trial by ice. I can simply extend my
Fingers in a pose of exquisite pain, I can only twist my arm, stretch, reach,
For you. Try, try, try, try, try, try to survive I'll try for you. I'd try for you,
Trial, trial by ice. I need a blanket to warm me from the chill of my emptiness,
I need a blanket to exsulate me, because I'm so cold inside. Try not to freeze,
Die a jolting phone, cataclysmic in the bone narrow night,
I need a blanket to warm me from the chill of my emptiness, where is sleep to
Hide me from the fact that you're so absent from my heart? Where is sleep to hide
Me from the fact that I'm too dead to even care? Hollow are the bones of lonely.
I stand... hollow. I die... hollow. But I try." 108- "Arctic"



As far as how it influences me being a parent I guess I am simply very protective in some respects and scared for them... this world is just horrific and getting more stark as each day passes.

Were songs like "Last Days Of The Titanic" or "Boring High School Cover Band" about the hard core scene? Do you think it lacks originality or just became unproductive?

I had to research those songs a bit because, to be honest, I forgot about those. Last Days of the Titanic was written in terms of how the Punk/Hardcore scene was becoming as rule oriented as the society that it was originally against. Just the statement "... doesn't belong in punk/hardcore" was strange to me. We can dislike someone's point but Punk/Hardcore is about freedom to express oneself in any way they are moved so to then limit what should or shouldn't be expressed was, to me, a sign that the scene was in danger of itself.

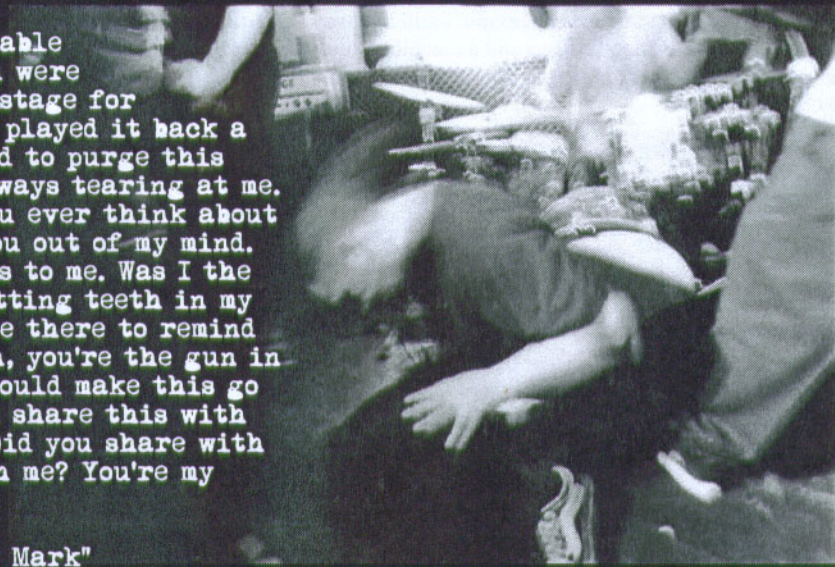
Boring High School Cover Band was about bands that become parody's of themselves. For example if 108 were to reform without the ability to do something we felt strongly about and put our hearts into would be a parody of what we once represented. It isn't about whether a band changes or progresses rather if you are a band for being a band's sake.

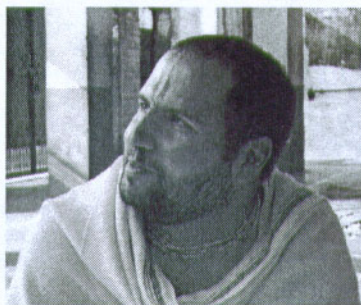
Do you feel like The Judas Factor gave you the possibility to fully express everything that you wanted? Did you have to find some other ways of expression after the band split up?

Well I don't know that you can ever express everything but the reason we broke up was simple; that period of my life had run its course. I said what I needed to say and didn't really know where I wanted to go from there.

"I can see myself...Vulnerable
...Innocent. Just what you were
looking for. You set the stage for
what is my life, and I've played it back a
million times. How I tried to purge this
from my mind, but it's always tearing at me.
I can't help wonder if you ever think about
me. Because I can't get you out of my mind.
You're faceless, heartless to me. Was I the
only one? You are the rotting teeth in my
mouth and everyday you're there to remind
me. You symbolize my pain, you're the gun in
my mouth but no bullet could make this go
away. I only wish I could share this with
you. Do you have a son? Did you share with
him what you shared with me? You're my
beauty mark."

The Judas Factor-"Beauty Mark"





At the reunion show you mentioned war in Iraq and bombings. What do you think of Bush and his administration, especially about their ways of handling domestic and foreign affairs? Do you support any party or political group?

I will avoid an essay here... to put it simply I have very strong feelings about our Political system and how it is geared to both serve it's citizens as well as how it serves to interact with other nations. George Bush and his administration simply symbolize those feelings to an extremity that I didn't know was possible.

o put it simply, we as a Nation, are extremely selfish, gullible and lazy. It is imperative that, one by one, we become committed in electing Politicians who will act with the best interest of the people, the majority of people, and with a sense of responsibility to future generations and the world. Otherwise the future is grim.

What I stated at the shows was that as a Nation and as individuals we shall reap what we sow.

So what can we expect from 108 in the nearest future? I think lots of people wonder what direction 108 is going to take both musically and lyrically...

Currently we are all writing material and will begin to trade tapes to see what we have come up with. When we get together later this year for some shows in Southern California we will demo some material. Musically and lyrically I would say it will be somewhat similar to the first few songs off of Threefold Misery and the song Curse of Instinct.

Thank you for all your time and I'm looking forward to hear new songs...

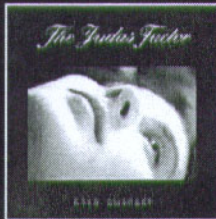
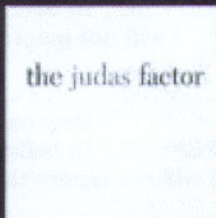
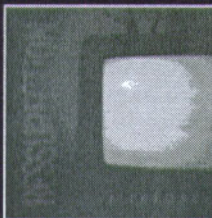
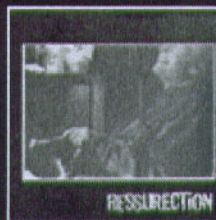
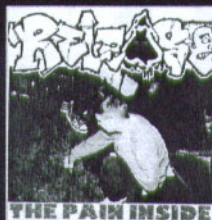
Thank you. You can look for updates at the following sites:

www.weare108.com <http://www.myspace.com/108music>

And for info personal info http://www.myspace.com/robert_fish

"I've become my favorite stranger just when things are getting desperate. I've become my most hated rival just when it seemed like I could finally put this to rest. There is little control when something is driving you. There is little to tell when you wear your heart on your sleeve, I'd like to know that this is real, to be above your suspicion. I can't live my life for you and I won't sing this song for you.... Why can't this just be beautiful? I guess we need our suffering as much as we need our bliss."

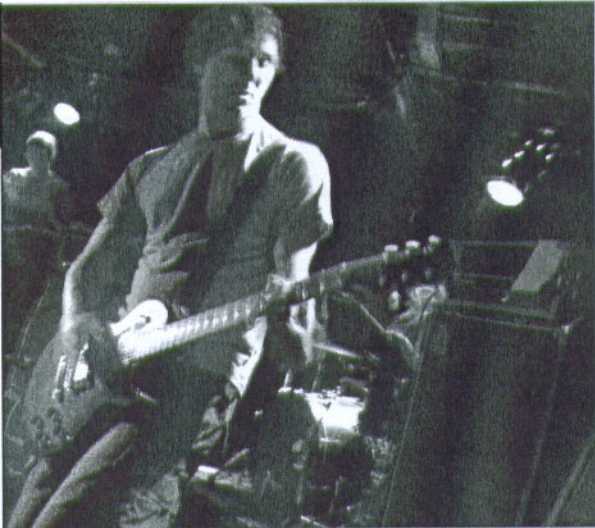
"My Favorite Stranger" -The Judas Factor



VERSE

"Painting Pictures"

The sun is setting on my back.. ON MY BACK
As I run from the problems I just cant face today
Just can't face today
Overwhelmed I'm so distraught
I'm left reaching for the faith... FOR THE FAITH
I felt so strong just yesterday.. Just yesterday
I'm painting a picture of a world
Where no one has to struggle and everyone gets along
Judged by our hearts judged by our minds
WHAT WE ARE
But the rain always comes to wash the paint away
Reminding us that sometimes in life WE ALL BLEED



"Waiting On A Revolution"

An explanation is what we want
We want to know how things could get so fucked up
And how things could get so out of hand
So many times we have waited on others to stand up for us
And act on what we believe is so fucking wrong with our
generation
I know we are all so angry
I know I'm so fucking angry
SO IM NOT WAITING ANYMORE
My rebellion starts here
I can't wait on revolution forever
My revolution STARTS HERE



"The Road Less Traveled"

I REFUSE , To believe in blind traditions or buy into this fake world
I will not ignore the truth I wont follow the sheep and be fooled
I refuse to forget all that I've learned
I see the truth that most choose to fight
Because that is not what I have in mind of a perfect life
I REFUSE , To believe in blind traditions or buy into this fake world
I will not ignore the truth. I will not follow the sheep and be fooled
I refuse to forget all that I've learned
I see the truth that most choose to fight
Because that is not what I have in mind of a perfect life
I REFUSE when this world tries to poison me
I REFUSE... I REFUSE when this world tries to poison me
I REFUSE to forget all that I've learned
In a world force feeding so many lies
All the confusion of choosing sides
I have searched and found what is best for me
And this world will never take that from me



Forced Forward

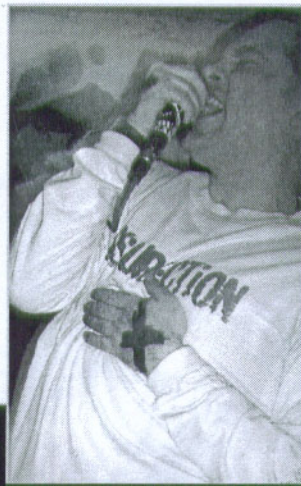
Forced Forward have been around for a while now and so far have released a demo. Right now the band is planning to record their first EP and get out to play more shows. Their demo caught my attention for many different reasons. I like the fact that they try to mix different influences, but at the same time kind of do their own thing. You can download their three songs from the stoplookandlistenzine.com. Meanwhile enjoy the interview and keep your eyes open for this band! They won't go unnoticed! Thanks to Rich and Cortney for doing this interview via email, during the month of October. Peace! R.

**So you Rich have been in many bands over the years. What made you to start this project?
How long has Forced Forward been around and who's been involved in the band?**

Rich: Forced Forward actually came out of a band that Cortney (our guitarist), Josh (our drummer), and I were doing called Anger Battery. Anger Battery was a band that existed for a couple months in early 2004 and put out a demo. We broke up when our bassist left to tour with Champion. We actually tried to make it work without Andy, but Josh in particular wasn't really happy with the idea of the band continuing in the utter uncertainty that it was in at the time so, like I said, we broke up. Cortney and I really wanted to try and keep doing a band because we work well together, have very similar tastes musically and like each other as people a great deal so we kept trying. Fast forward to Spring of 2004, we had our first practice as Forced Forward, the initial lineup was Cort, our friend Joe (he actually recorded our demo) on second guitar, our friend Alex on bass and our friend "Not" Sean Pumphrey on drums. Joe only came for two practices before deciding he didn't want to do it, our drummer Sean kinda quit/was kicked out a couple months back and Alex, our bassist JUST quit recently. I hate that our lineup has been so unstable up until now but I'm very happy with our current lineup which is me (vocals), Cortney (guitar), Justin Malone (bass) and Josh on drums and I think that lineup is going to stay because we all share very similar senses of humor and have the same drive with the band.

Do you consider yourself a Straight Edge band? What ideas or ethics do you support within the hard core scene and on the personal level?

R: Yes, it's fair enough to say we consider ourselves a straight edge band and we do fly the flag but I personally feel the concept is far more important than the title, but I'm still definitely a dork for that kinda stuff, I almost always x up when we play. As far as ethics and ideas within the hardcore scene and outside the "scene" here goes: I'm extremely passionate about working for more of a community within hardcore, not just kids nerding out about hardcore records (although I do love talking shop and that is something I do a great amount, I'm not trying to say we have to be serious all the time) but relating on a deeper level and making less superficial connections with each other. For that matter it's something I wish and hope for outside of our little insular "scene" but it's something that would be pretty easy to obtain in hardcore/punk, it's also important to try and work for that outside of this medium, though. I am a bit of a social retard but it's important to try and take the baby steps and then bigger steps to making all of us on this stupid ball of twine called Earth make deeper connections and stop being so alienated from each other. I am also very into pushing for a more peaceful and compassionate existence, therefore, I feel it's extremely important to not eat other animals and that's probably one of my biggest agenda items in my life. The cruelty of factory farming and murdering other innocents when humans clearly have other options disgusts me.



Washington D.C. Hard Core

C: For me in the hardcore scene and outside I am basically just trying to make it a better place. I'm so tired of constant fighting and complaining between people...yes there are some people that like it that way and aren't happy unless they are trying to cut someone down because of different beliefs or how they want to live there life and i am really kind of sick of it.

In one of your songs you speak about people accepting even lies in order to gain some sense of... security? Do you think that general ignorance in the society and support even for the most unjust actions has source in it?

R: I guess you are speaking of our song "taken". I feel that the truth is ugly and scary and for the average westerner it's so much easier to believe that everything that is being done by our government is with kindness and best of intentions. It makes us feel like we are heroes, we're part of a bigger and better whole. I think that we as people want to feel not only secure but good about ourselves. People work at places like Halliburton and decide that they are "saving the world" so yes, there are people who do bad things unknowingly because they want to feel good and while at it, make a lot of money; you'll experience this within left wing political activist circles as well. People oftentimes hide behind political lines whether good or bad. Hope that answers your question!

Where did you find answers and alternatives for yourselves to whatever the mainstream thought and society proposes? Do you think that Hard Core as a community is still offering any alternative way of thinking?

R: I'm going to tackle the second part of the question first. I feel that the hardcore/punk scene is a great place to start for looking at other ways of thinking, it's not always (nor is it usually) very well-spoken but it offers the rebellious spirit with a sense of consciousness as well. I found other places to educate myself later on but it was a wonderful place to find out about things such as vegetarianism/veganism, anarchism, communism, feminism, ecology, animal rights ,spirituality and plenty of other words that end with the three letters ISM. All of these things I was initially exposed to through hardcore/punk and while it may not be as politicized as it was in the late 80s/early 90s when I was first exposed to the music it's still a good source and in some cases the easiest way to find the seeds for these ideas.

C: The hardcore scene is definitely still offering alternative thinking. Just by listening to the music and reading the lyrics you are already submitting yourself to different thoughts and beliefs you may have never knew existed in the mainstream. Then the whole idea from that would be to build upon that with your own ideas and thoughts.



So what's the situation with your first EP? Do you have already a label that'll release it and what are your plans after that?

R: Yes! We have a seven inch EP coming out on Collapse records! We are extremely happy to get this record out and will be available hopefully before year's end. After we get the 7" out we just plan on playing out as much as possible and writing new songs and hopefully doing an LP and hopefully meeting some cool kids, having some laughs and participating in some road trip tomfoolery.

C: After that is released i want to play as much as possible and continue to write songs...I don't want to be one of those bands that just keeps playing the same stuff over and over and doesn't get anything accomplished I want to continue pushing our song writing and the sound of hardcore into a new direction.

Could you say something more about the song called "Beauty"? What "ignorant actions" and "thoughtless words" do you mean?

R: Well, hardcore/punk has never been the most friendly place for a woman to be involved. I don't think it's important to make it more "palatable" for anyone but I will say that some of the underlying misogyny is alarming. I'm a nice guy and I realize that it's often young boys/men who have been hurt by young girls/women and don't have the perspective to realize just yet that people are people, some are shitty and some are amazing, regardless of gender. What I mean by "ignorant actions" and "thoughtless words" isn't about completely avoiding the word "bitch" or "slut" but partly watching how you interact with women and not talking down to them, not looking at them as inferior or unintelligent just because of their gender.

What's been going on in DC during the recent months? Any new bands/zines/demos you recommend? Do you feel that politics influence your scene because of the White House being located in Washington?

R: The Washington DC/Baltimore/Northern Virginia Metro area in recent months has been going through a rebirth, or so it seems.. We have more bands than we've had in a long time and on top of that, some really quality bands. Some of the best area bands are 86 Mentality, Bail out!, Time to Escape (check out their demo), Set To Explode, TAEA, Attrition, etc, etc. No current zines but I hear rumor of some on the horizon and I would just check things out by these bands and many others, I know I'm missing someone that I like tons but I can't recall right now. Anyways, I'm not all that certain that the politics are THAT influenced by living in the city where our nation's leaders live. I think in some ways, there's a more realistic look at things,



"Taken"

There's a hole in your head and I can see straight through
you want to take everything they say as the truth and I
have to be honest:

I don't blame you.

Because who wants to admit that they're being fooled?

Try and look from a different perspective that isn't in
favor of you

because we profit from pain and
making sure that we don't lose...

We're TAKEN Taken for fools.

TAKEN We don't want to lose.

Like a lover being lied to, the game is cruel and we don't
want to admit

that we're taken for fools.

We've got to seek out the answers and act upon our
doubts before we burn with this Babylon that we built on
blood.

black and white sloganeering and more just basic anti-politician anti US Foreign policy because a lot of people are children of military/state department families.

Rich, how would you compare the scene nowadays and 12-14 years ago? How do you feel about the way it has evolved since you've been involved in it?

R: Well, I grew up in the great lakes area of the Midwestern United States. Things were very small there and so I have a different attitude than lots of people who grew up on the east coast of the United States. Beyond that, on a national level, I think Politics had a much larger emphasis in the 90s in particular than they do now. Luckily I see a lot more of a sense of urgency, anger and overall consciousness than there was for the past 5 or 6 years. The sellouts have been weeded out and the kids are looking for depth again.

Do you have any books, movies or records that have been especially inspiring to you?

R: I really like *American Splendor* as far as movies go. I felt that movie was one of the few that I could really relate to, lots of people romanticize being broke and happy but very few people are writing about people who just feel left behind by society and unable to relate and getting older and still not getting "it", that movie did that wonderfully and I loved it. Other than that as far as movies, I'm a fan of *Lowest Common Denominators* and documentaries so I guess I'm a little less interesting than what I thought, hahah. Bookwise, SHAMBHALA: SACRED PATH OF THE WARRIOR was a read that's always made me feel like I'm on the right path in life whenever I'm feeling discouraged. Also, Daniel Quinn's books are awesome if you don't know who I'm talking about get out there and read ISHMAEL, MY ISHMAEL and THE STORY OF B, please, they are great reads on a fictional level and you'll have some food for thought.. Music is really where I come to shine.. Records that really inspired me growing up were Bad Brains "Roi sessions", 7 Seconds "The Crew", Black Flag "Damaged", Beefeater "House Burning Down", Resurrection "I Refuse", the Flex Your Head comp., Gorilla Biscuits "Start Today", Anthrax "Among The Living", Born Against/Suckerpunch split flexi, Turning Point/No Escape Split, Metallica "And Justice For All" Heroin "Paper Bag" 7" etc. etc. You'll notice that most of my most influential records were hardcore records and there is a reason for that, there has been some metal that's made me feel really angry and inspired but very few that



"Beauty"

I can't pretend to know you and I won't pretend to show you that I feel your pain (because I don't). All I can do is listen and understand what I can do through ignorant actions and thoughtless words. And actions that render so many as worthless (in my eyes). We know the words, we've all spoken them, looked down upon you for fear of ourselves. Beauty is not the crime, your existence is your only crime.

Every time you're belittled or laughed at. BEAUTY IS NOT THE CRIME

Every time you're afraid to walk alone. We're all guilty. BEAUTY IS NOT THE CRIME.

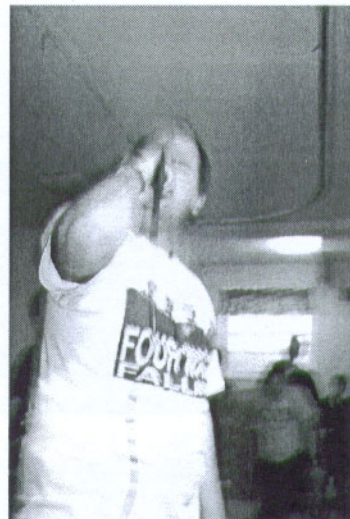
inspired me with their words. Current bands that really move me are Verse, End of a Year, Say Goodbye, 7 Generations, 86 Mentality, Bail Out!, Soulfire, Restless Youth. There's more but I'm drawing a blank.

C: Movies really aren't my deal but when i do watch them I prefer something that challenges the mind. As far as books go The BHAGAVAD-GITA also The Key to REAL Happiness. Records that have really inspired me are Uniform Choice "Screaming For Change", Dag Nasty "can i say", 108 "Threefold Misery" and "Songs Of Separation", Shelter "Attaining The Supreme", Verse "Rebuild", and so many more that I know I'm forgetting.

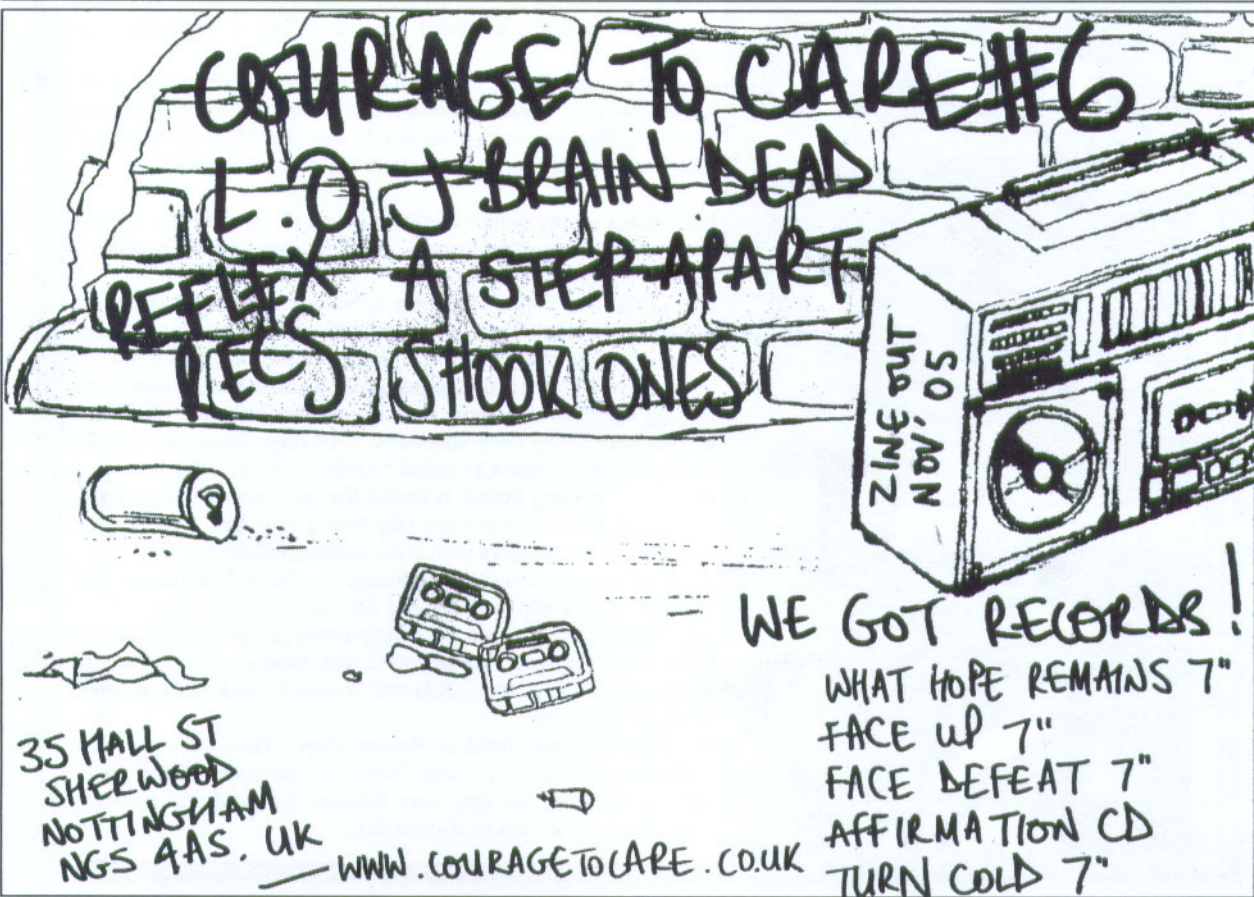
Thanks for your time! Do you have any last comments?

R: Go Vegan, try and be healthy and in touch with yourself and others. Also, don't forsake your ideals, you don't have to sell yourself out to survive all the time. Thanks for all the support, Rob! PEACE!!!! XXX.

C: Thanks for the opportunity to do the interview and all your support. Don't be fake live from your heart and soul.



[HTTP://FORCEDFORWARD.HEADCOUNTRECORDS.COM](http://FORCEDFORWARD.HEADCOUNTRECORDS.COM)



DISHARMONIC



CENSORED SOUND



925



VODKA JUNIORS



GREECE

Intro

Greece is a small country (about 11,000,000 population) of Europe, bordering with many Balkan countries & Turkey. We used to have a very strong DIY hardcore scene in early 90s including bands such as Chaotic End & Negative Stance, who are still popular in the European underground scene, but after 1995 many things have changed. Don't expect a positive old school hardcore scene, sXe kids and 100% hardcore attitude. The scene, even though is growing fast, is still in a low level in Greece.

Bands

Back to 2005...Unfortunately the punk/hardcore scene is divided in two parts. There are bands who play only in squats or anti-commercial events and there are bands that play at clubs at local lives or supporting foreign famous bands. I don't mean that there is a hatred between the bands, just a difference of opinions & thoughts.

Moreover, many bands appeared the last years, following the international new stream of metalcore. There are a lot of crappy bands but there are some great bands, too, like More Of Myself to Kill, For What Is Worth, Stagnate & Unbreakable Circle.

Let's focus on the punk / hardcore bands of my country. I won't divide them into "commercial" or anti-commercial, because I don't even agree with these terms.

One of the best bands of Greece is Vodka Juniors. Based on the capital city (Athens), the skate-punk/thrashers are a lot of years around, playing everywhere (including a mini European tour) and releasing a lot of stuff. Another great band is 925, a new band playing aggressive hardcore with many other influences from ska to grindcore. They have scheduled a 10 days European tour for November and a new CD called "Another city to refuse" is coming soon. Censored Sound, is maybe the only true old school hardcore band, while Disharmonic (the band I sing for...) try to combine old school hardcore with some modern influences.

We have some cool ska - punk bands, too. Mute The Silence, Kill The Cat, Plus Dots and One Big Stag are some of them. Moreover, there is an oi! scene and a very active group called Skinhead Unity Crew organize a lot of shows with local and foreign bands. Bootstroke, Soberphobia, OCB and Wasted United are some good bands of this scene.

My favorite Greek band is Xasma (Gap). They play excellent punk-rock and they are pretty famous in the underground scene. Already 10 years old they have released 3 records till now and their shows are always over-crowded.

My other favorite band is Hibernation (with 2 7" and a record released by Skuld Releases). They are members of old hardcore bands like Chaotic End and Forgotten Prophecy. Their style is Swedish brutal hardcore with atmospheric parts, but unfortunately, they don't play often live shows. Another cool band is One Block Society; they exist 10 years, too, but they succeeded to release their first album last year. Emocore with Earth Crisis stitches, that's the way I would describe their style.

Distros / Labels

Enough with the bands! There are some other cool bands but sorry but they are too many to mention them all. If you want info for more local bands just get in touch with me. Well, distros/labels section is next... Let's see! There are a few distros in my country, including my own one (hXf prodaxionz), Scarecrow (a big distro, great influence for many local punk/hc kids), Last Scream and We Don't Fight It. Also, many kids cover their distribution stuff in the local shows, even though they don't have a webpage or a mailorder catalogue. Speaking about the labels, I can say that they are only a few in my country, that care about hardcore. Wipe Out is the oldest label with releases of all the great old punk bands (Panx Romana, Antidrazi, etc.), but it is a bit inactive nowadays. Damaged Productions (home of Konkave & Sun of Nothing) is a label working with metalcore/mathcore/experimental bands. Cannonball 666 Records is another cool DIY label (released Vodka Juniors, 925, No Balance) and they co-operate with Playfalse Recs, an Athenian punk/hardcore label, too.

Shows

All the famous & great foreign bands visited Greece for shows the last years, including Agnostic Front, Ignite, 25 Ta Life, Blood For Blood, Terror, Born From Pain, Walls Of Jericho, Angel Crew etc. Moreover, DIY acts like Vitamin X, Kafka, Endstand, Outcold, The Now Denial, Tragedy, Antimaniac, Dagda, Smalltown etc. gave some great shows in squats and social centers the same period. The scene is going stronger day after day and the result is that local shows featuring new punk & hardcore bands take place once a month.

Fanzines

As far as I know there are only 3 fanzines dedicated to hardcore music in Greece; Take Your Shot, Keep It Real & Immigrant zine. But there are some webzines, too, punk.gr, Avopolis.gr/core and diymusic.org.

Outro

Well, I hope you enjoyed the trip to my country's punk/hardcore scene. If you need further information, just get in touch with: hxf_prodaxionz@yahoo.com

Here are some web pages you can visit (check always the links pages and you'll find out a lot of cool sites!):

www.cballrec.com, www.vodkajuniors.com, www.playfalse.com,
www.disharmonic.s4u.org, www.punk.gr, www.diymusic.org,
www.avopolis.gr/core, www.censoredsound.com, www.oneblocksociety.gr,
www.myspace.com/925, www.scarecrow.gr.

FOR WHAT
IT'S WORTH



**SCARECROW
DISTRO**

ΔΙΑΝΟΜΗ PUNK~HARDCORE~GRIND
 CDs - BINAIA - DVDs - ΚΑΣΣΕΤΕΣ & ΜΠΑΝΔΕΣ
ΑΝΤΙΚΑΤΑΒΟΛΗ ΣΕ ΟΛΗ ΤΗΝ ΕΛΛΑΔΑ
 ΠΑΡΗΣΕ ΚΑΤΑΒΟΛΕΣ (ΠΑΝΟ ΑΠΟ 700 ΤΥΠΟΙ) ΣΤΗ ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΣΗ:
www.scarecrow.gr

**ΜΑΡΟΦ
CENT GREECE**

B. C. 1200 - 140

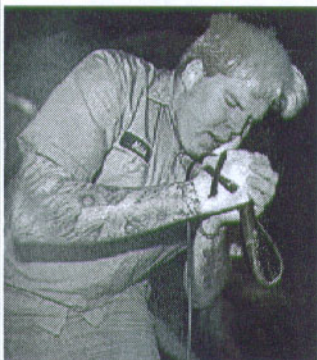


**"Crawling through the mud,
struggling to breathe.
The path of ruin you led me on.
Look what you've left of me,
fire is falling from above,
but not the fire from the sun.
Here life is melting away,
because of what you've done.**

**Parasite on life fuels and
ignites the evil in our minds.
Searches until it finds
absolute devastation.
Final eradication.
Life runs out of luck
and we all self destruct.**

**The mask I wore when this started
has now become my face and
any trace of emotion I'm trying
to erase. I've seen those blasted
souls and now became their host
rotting away in the trenches.
My brothers turn into ghosts.**

**The murder machine stays undefined.
Life comes and go, the fight stays
alive. No mater what you do, your
foe will survive.
Don't go far, the
enemy's inside.**



**DAMNATION A.D.
"Turn Into Ghosts"**

**Close your
eyes,
what will
you find?
The enemy
inside.**

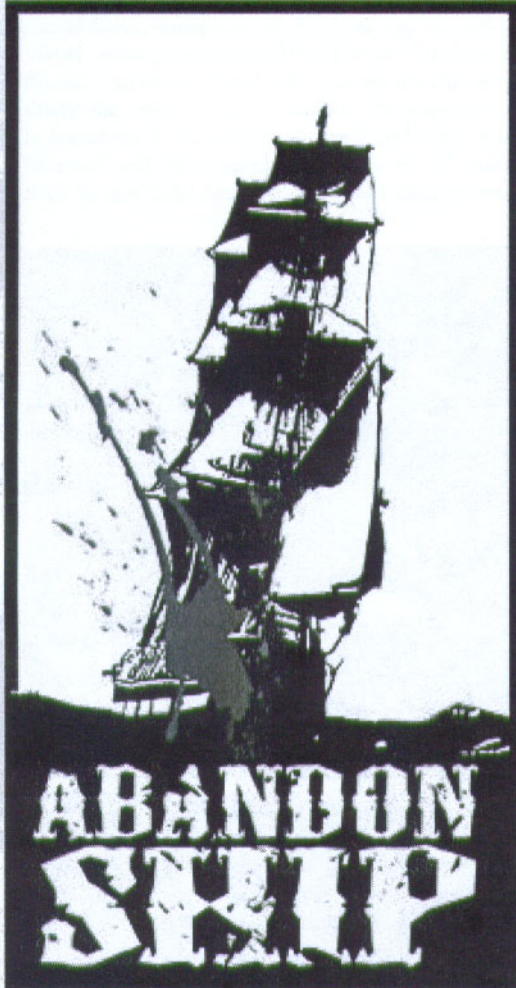
We're turned into ghosts"

xxx
So there is me and the way I see myself, there is me that others see revealed through my actions and there is me in relationships with those who are considered friends. Which one is real? Everyone likes to think about themselves that it's the first one. But many times it happened that someone else made me aware of something about myself that I didn't see or pay attention to. It may be nice, but it may be really harsh too, when you suddenly realize that there is something about you that everybody knows and sees...but yourself. Just like an unexpected look in the mirror that reveals all the scars in the full light. Especially when that's the last thing you ever wanted to happen at that moment.

It's not only society with it's propaganda and brainwash, but my own mind that at times is becoming my biggest enemy. My own mind and all that has been planted in it since the early years. All the baggage of fears, likes, dislikes, hatred and fondness for whatever instinct suggests... Thoughts that make me believe that in reality I'm bigger and better than anybody else around. Thoughts that bring me down and make feel inferior to others, cutting my dreams and hopes. Thoughts that are suppose to fool me and make me drunk with my own pride and submission to anything that pleases me. Thoughts that cause nothing but confusion and get me down right on my knees. Enemy within myself... isn't that a paradox? Just when we think that we are so clean, so just, wonderful and getting on with everyone and everything there is this force inside that can drive us away from where we really think we are. Or what we think is just. If it's not going to harm directly us, it will those around us and that we are close to. Just when we claim to have so much control it may twist us around it's finger and humiliate, making us to do things we later regret. Why? Because conscience will remind us of what's been done wrong and what might have been right.

My mind: my dearest friend that can secretly also become my biggest enemy. Is it worth it to begin an effort to crash this apathy that breeds in the minds and gain some more control? It's like a game where by nature I'm suppose to lose, just to obey and let the tricks to be played on me. It not only blackens hearts, but also intoxicates and blurs the sight.

But I wanna find the light that will brighten these darkest moments and let me regain some sense of control and personal self-worth. All I want is the light that will show me the way, bring some more peace and help me to awake from this nightmarish times... R
xxx



**Abandon Ship - how did you come up with this name for a band?
Does it have any special meaning for you?**

There is a story behind the name. Depending on your sense of humour, I'm either going to paint us as numbskulls from the outset or you're going to see it as a vaguely amusing anecdote in the story.

When we started up we couldn't decide on a band name because, being the over self-conscious types we were back then, we found every idea to be too "this" or too "that". You know, it was either "oh that sounds like a such and such sort of band" or "nah, it sounds too emo" or something. I think getting the right name was important for us as it should be for every band as it is an identity that you'll be stuck with until the wheels fall off your band.

So we continued writing songs and practicing but the subject of what to call the band kept cropping up and every time it descended into a "who can think of the stupidest name" competition with all sorts of shit names being thrown out.

Eventually we were offered our first gig and still didn't have a name and with the promoter asking what he was going to put the flyer, our of frustration our guitarist, Andy (guitar/vocals), decided to pick a name we'd previously joked about, SHIP OF DOOM.

So we were originally called SHIP OF DOOM. I think Andy thought he was being funny and ironic or something. The name stuck for three gigs until just before the doors opened for the third gig we were playing, we all got together and decided to change the name. ABANDON SHIP had been mentioned previously and we all liked it, so it got the vote. I remember Andy thinking we were a bunch of poe-faced killjoys at the time. Not sure if he still feels that way.

I think it should be mentioned that despite the demo cover (which, for those of you who haven't seen it, was an image of a galleon scabbed from a tattoo flash sheet), we've never been into the whole weirdo pirate obsession that some hardcore types have fallen into. When I think of the name ABANDON SHIP, I've always pictured the scene of dudes abandoning a WW2 warship that's just been torpedoed.

Anyhow, the only real connection between the name and meaning it

I came across Abandon Ship quite inexpediently, looking around for some bands from the UK I had not known yet. And then I got tracks from their first EP (split with Permanent) and was really very impressed! Fast and loud Hard Core with some good, reflective lyrics. I don't need more than that!

The same week I got to listen to them for a first time, Rob (vocals) ordered the first issue of the zine from me! That was some nice coincidence, we exchanged a few more emails and I sent him questions for the interview. In the meantime Abandon Ship got to release their first 12" (on London's Ghost City Rec.) and did some touring. Check them out!

R.



"This simple song, my dearest friends, is an ode to you as sincere as I can. For the people I left, for this place called home. Now the thoughts don't fit when they're reduced to words. You have to know there's more than I can put into verse. Please see this as a section, part, piece of the whole. An awkwardly written poem from this clumsy soul. But for the moment, this will do well. So where to begin. You might not have noticed that I was choking, changing my outlook, trying to figure out what's ahead but I'm beset by company and a sleepy town life. Now I'm down, and when I'm down I'm bored and I am bored of living out this broken record so I moved away for some peace of mind. Fly south for the winter and I might find that Emerald city where all the answers lie, but the one thing I know I found was that I love you all, I miss you all and I need you all right now." **"Small Town Saga"**

has to the band is the nautical references which seem to crop up in the lyrics (I put it down to being a piscean) and the fact that originally, we all lived in Brighton.

How much are you satisfied with "Till I Burst" and the tour that followed? Do you feel like things picked up for Abandon Ship after you released the 12"?

Very satisfied with both the record and the tour. Everything just came to together so well. It was a bit of a slog getting stuff sorted with various delays but getting the record and playing it, the subsequent screening factory that was set up in the house Matt (drummer) and I live in, and the release gig we played (our first gig for a couple of months) banished all those feelings. Personally, there were thoughts of impending failure and possible self-implosion that were running through my head towards the end but everything turned out nicely.

The tour was awesome. Just travelling around and playing songs we love to people who wanted to hear them and the feeling of being on the road and all that. It's addictive I can tell you. We want and need more as a band I think. From my point of view, it had me feeling that I should have done something like this earlier in my life like when I was in my early 20s rather than late 20s but then I told myself that it wouldn't be the same experience given who I was and who I am now.

I think both the experience of recording the record, having it released and then going on a gigging stint of more than two days really bolstered this band. We definitely needed it as previously we'd always been somewhat haphazard with gigging and we have been around for about 2 and 1/2 years. "About fucking time" basically sums up my feelings.

I read your lyrics and really could relate to many things you say, i.e. songs like "The Reminder" or "Small Town Saga". What is inspiring you to write lyrics and how much are they referring to your personal lives?

Thanks for the compliments. All the lyrics are personal thoughts on issues and situations in the life of Andy or myself (Andy wrote A Blythe and Gentle Spirit - on the demo and the 7" split on Speedowax Records, and Take A Picture - the first track on Til I Burst). They are specifically referring to how we feel about situations.

I guess the main inspiration for my lyrics comes from ideas that pop into my head. It'll just be a random reflection on a scene in front of me or something that I think about. Then I expand on the idea. I know





that's kind of vague but the thoughts come from all over. I think that's the best way I can describe it.

There are two songs on 'Til I Burst that are about specific people, Thaw and Life of a Star. They're both very personal and while I don't really like talking about people in lyrics generally (even in these tunes, it's more how I feel/felt around them), they are people who deserve to have me go nuts and scream my lungs out about them. I'm sure they will or would think I'm a bit of a halfwit for making out that my on stage ranting is any kind of compliment.

So what is your definition of a true friendship? Have you watched many people leave because of the place that was wearing them out, and not necessarily friendship you've had with them?

I definitely think a real friend will let you go where you have to in life and not try to trap you or keep you close to them. You have to think about what's best for your friend. For their life rather than what you think will keep them in the state you want them.

A true friend to me is someone who just has time to listen to you and makes you happy and who you can rely on without taking you for granted. If you can be that to someone, then I think you're a good friend to that person. A tangible example of good friendship is being able to be apart from each other for a long time but be like no time has passed when you meet again. It's a rad feeling that exists with a few people I know.

In Brighton, there always seems to be this transient population that live here for a bit and then move away for whatever reason, it's somewhat sad when someone doesn't see the town in the homely light that I do but then I guess the same could be said for my lack of contentment in my home town. As I said, I feel you have to let people move on and they have to do what's best for them. Better to have a friend who's happy in themselves than a friend who's down about their life.

What keeps you going against the grain and where do you get strength not to give up? What is been the biggest struggles for you so far?

Just the knowledge that life is a lot shittier if you let it carry you where it wants. The achievement and strength you can get from taking control of even the smallest aspect of your life that you've previously let drift can be overwhelming. I think I started thinking like this when I was in my early 20s. Things just weren't how I wanted them and a combination of events occurred that made me not just want to drift anymore.

There was a time earlier this year when I thought maybe I'd taken on too much. You have work and then the band (which is probably my only outlet for frustration) and then you hear someone very close to you is ill and someone else very close to you is going through a hard time for other

"How long can I go against this grain, as apathy rears its ugly head again. All focus gone, all feeling one. Why do I insist in going against this grain when it's easier to just drift along to get me through and let my thoughts be privy to the ebb and flow, the undertow. Put my hopes to the back of the queue. Lament about those days that never came. The ebb and flow. The undertow. A rising tide to pull me down. Holding fast, I still move on. Step by step until the shoreline's gone. Let's not dwell on what never happened. Pick a course and steer this ship true. And I can't let this be. So goodbye to an old friend who has done the best in their ability to hem me in and stop me being who I want to be." **"The Reminder"**

reasons. I know I felt like hiding under a rock because of all the threads of life you're trying to hold together, but I just couldn't. You have to keep going. Pull yourself together for people that need you. Prioritize things and get going. The thought that everything in my life might fall apart scared me enough to keep going.

What would you say is the most challenging thing for you living in British society? Do you think it differs from other countries as far as intolerance and other negatives?

I haven't lived anywhere else or experienced enough people from a different country or culture to comment as to whether we're better or worse.

British society has it's problems. I often think that the government let's the youth in this country down a fair bit but I've got a feeling that that happens in other countries as well. I am talking about giving people a future and encouraging them to make the best of themselves rather than allowing pubs to stay open 24 hrs and talking about the dangers of binge drinking while letting pubs serve ridiculously cheap drinks. It's all askew and that's just one little thing I see. I get through best by shutting it out.

Do you have many kids involved in Hard Core Punk in the Brighton area? Are there any other bands or projects in the south that you are friends with?

There are a few. Not as many as I'd like but it's increasing. Brighton and the surrounding area already has a big punk scene of sorts so it's not like there is this huge body of kids with nothing to do that you can switch onto hardcore. There are a few of us doing our thing to get good hardcore bands to play down here and it seems to be on the up but still needs a lot of work and a larger body of regular dudes to keep it going.

The other bands worth taking note of from round here are Turn Cold and The Struggle if you like hardcore, Random Heroes if you like things punkier and Two Finger Salute if you like Oi! punk. In the South generally there are a fair few. Pilger, On Thin Ice, Out of Hand, CT Bloodbath, Raise the White Flag, Thought DK, are just a few off the top of my head. Ask around on Dead and Gone or SouthCoastHQ websites and you'll be able to find them.

Is this band a big part of your day to day lives? What does the near future hold for Abandon Ship?

I think about it everyday, yes. Not too sure about the others. I know it's a major pastime in our lives. To me, as I've said, it's a valuable outlet for frustration and energy. Whether that's healthy or not I don't know. I do know it's one of very few passions in my life. I love playing gigs, I love when we write

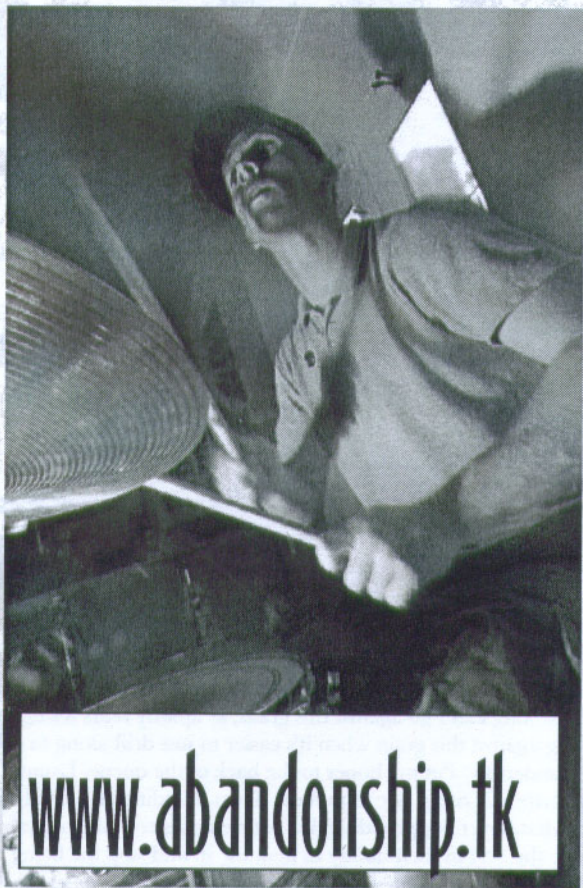
songs that make me go nuts and I love sorting out records and such like. I just want to keep going till it's run it or I have run our course.

We want to keep playing more gigs and maybe cross over the channel to do a few gigs in Europe if I can sit down and figure that one out at some point.

New songs should be forthcoming when we get back into practicing as well then some more recording I hope. I did have this plan that I mentioned to the others when we were on the road a while ago that we should write an album. It was inspired from reading the story of the creation of Back in Black. How the Young brothers locked themselves in a studio after Bon Scott's death and wrote the entire album. The idea was given a luke warm response. We'll see.

Thanks for doing this interview! Anything you'd like to add?

Thanks for the interesting interview and thanks for not asking boring shit like what we do for jobs and what bands influence us.



www.abandonship.tk

"You blame it on your youth,
blame it on your luck
Blame it on your family,
they didn't give a fuck
Blame it on your poverty
or because you're rich
Blame it on the one you
love and label her a bitch
POWER WITHIN
We've got the power

You blame it on the weather,
but I think it's bizarre
That you blame it on astrology
and all of the stars
POWER WITHIN
We've got the power

Blame it on your country,
blame it on your town
Blame it on your neighborhood,
you want to burn it down
Blame it on your culture,
blame it on your genes
Blame it on New York, L.A.,
and all that's in between
POWER WITHIN
We've got the power

Sick of all these excuses,
they're not good enough for me
Now's the time to rise
and take responsibility
POWER WITHIN
We've got the power"

**BETTER THAN A THOUSAND
"POWER WITHIN"**

"You're one accident or one tragedy away from losing it all..." I've heard it a couple of times and this kind of negative or pessimistic suggestion has it's importance and hidden hope. I think it's mostly when we are in jeopardy or danger when we start to appreciate things we have and our lives. Suddenly whatever little we have becomes everything we ever needed instead of something that just belonged to us and we've been taking for granted. Suddenly we start to see and be grateful for whatever we've achieved and not despise it with unsatisfied desire for everything else we have always wanted to have or be but were never able to. Suddenly we're thankful for being well and alive...

It's sort of sad that it takes a threat for us to realize the importance of our lives, abilities and the possibilities we have. It is one accident away from being lost, but I think we should have it sculpted in our minds every time we start to complain. And we all love it, don't we? Everyone has it better than us. We are always being treated unfairly. We could give each other a million reasons for not being satisfied, and another million for disliking everybody who has it "better" than us. I'm not saying that it isn't true at times and we can be treated unfairly, because everyone is tempted to take advantage of another when the possibility arises. But I mean situations when complaint becomes an excuse for laziness, a cover for greed and demand for pity. It's so much easier just to sit around and talk shit about everyone and everything around, than to actually get up and make a change in our lives or to give ourselves more creative direction. Nobody has this power, but each of us individually. Others may give us an inspiration or their help in building strength, but it's us individually who can choose and decide how we wanna live and how productive it is going to be. Unless we let apathy steal it and change it into this never ending litany of complaints.

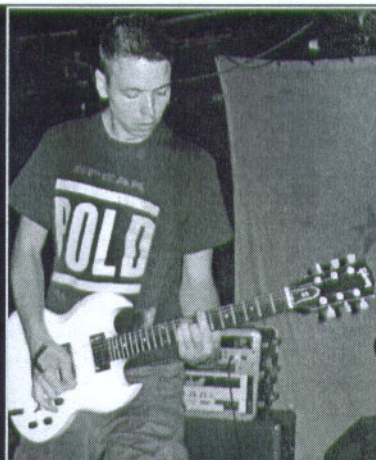
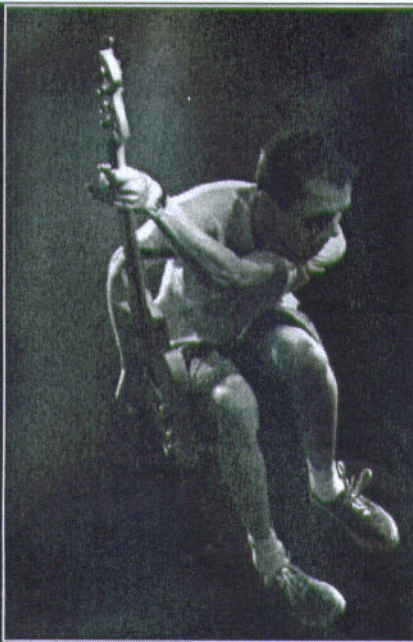
Doing nothing comes much easier than making an effort. Complaining takes maybe a bit more energy, but still is just the easy way out. I think it just pushes us into this ungrateful frame of mind that lashes out with some greedy demands and spiteful comments. The challenging part comes when you are actually faced with a situation where you can make a change, cherish it and be responsible for it. Live, appreciate and create.
R.



LAST ITEM "are you really down" 7"
hard hitting hardcore in vein of JUDGE
and Right Brigade

COMING OUT LATE SUMMER 05

"...PEOPLE CHANGE, I KNOW WHERE I STAND, AWARE OF MY WEAKNESSES AND MY STRENGTHS.."



You just can't go wrong with A Step Apart if you like the old core with a new and fresh approach. I contacted the band and they kindly agreed to do this interview via email. It was done right after their new EP release show, last month. Thanks to Arjan for help and Jasper for answering my questions! And do not even think twice if you see their records! 1-2-3 GO! R..



A STEP APART

"I made a choice for myself
To have a clear and open mind
I guess I hoped you would understand
I made a change that was due so long
Those hours, those memories
All the feelings that we shared
I guess it's not cool to have straight
mind anymore
But it was never a trend to me

These words have given me
More than anything in this world
These words have given me strength
And courage to be aware of what I do

It's hard to find a way on my won
When the easiest path is
the only one shown
There's a thin line that divides
What I'm looking for and
what's inside

These words have given me
More than anything in this world
These words have given me strength
And courage to be aware of what I do

After all that's been said and done
It's just part of me I can't let go
After all that's been said and done
It's just part of me and I won't let go"
"These Words"



So the great news is that you have just finished recording new EP. How many songs are going to be on it, what are they talking about and how happy are you with the result?

Actually it should already be out by the time you read this, we had some trouble with the layout (again) so it got delayed although the pre-orders have been sent out a while ago. There's an intro and four songs on it. I think we're all pretty happy with the result, if you compare this 7" to the last one you can definitely hear that we've grown as a band. For me personally it's been an important step too because I had the guts to put some personal feelings into some of the lyrics because I had to get them out of my system so the new songs are really important to me.

When did you start as a band and what goals did you set for A Step Apart? Were/Are you involved in some other projects as well?

We started out as a band... About a year and a half ago I think. But then our old drummer quit and we found a new drummer: Gijs. I like to think we didn't really start until Gijs joined us because ever since then things have been on a roll. With him in the band we just found the perfect ambience to write songs, to do some touring and most important of all have a lot of fun. He didn't just fit in, he really completed us. Most of us are involved in other stuff as well, Arjan also plays bass in an awesome band called Nothing Done, Gijs sings and plays guitar in a rocking Hot Water Music-styled band and I'm trying to initiate a new vegan revolution.

In one of the songs you say that not the music but the message defines what hard core is and what we're trying to create. So what's your message? What are trying to say to people?

I'm not trying to convey a particular message with that song, but what I'm trying to say is that hardcore isn't just music. And I know that has been said millions of times before by millions of other bands but when there's still people out there that think 'hardcore is just another type of loud music' there's still a need to tell those people that they're wrong. People that think hardcore is just another musical genre are missing out on so much because it could mean so much more to you. For some reason there don't seem to be a lot of other genres where kids will travel all over the world just to see a bunch of bands play in a smelly venue, or where bands tour in small vans and sleep on peoples floors just because they WANT to tour because they love playing so much. I hate it when hardcore gets demoted to nothing more than another trend to make some money on. I mean, some bands with roots in hardcore are pretty big nowadays and I'm all for that, more power to them for that... But when they lose touch with the essence and start acting like rock stars they've just stopped being a hardcore band to me.

What do you think now after these few months about "There is a choice" EP? Are you happy with the way it came out and responses it got?

I think we're all pretty happy with the responses we got, I've read some cool reviews of it. We're still very happy with the way it came out but there

"I sink like a stone
thrown in the ocean
My logic drowned in
a sea of emotion
To you it was always
second best
And I never thought
to wonder why

Why couldn't I
just walk away
Sometimes I wish I
could turn my head
-LIKE YOU

There are promises
broken and promises
kept
Angry words were
spoken
when we should
have wept
I look in the mirror,
I don't face regret
But a lesson once
learned
is so hard to forget"

"Reflect"

will always be some points about a record that you recorded yourself that make you think 'I would have done that differently' or 'Oh man, I wish I could re-record that bit' but that's natural. It's healthy to criticize your own work because if you don't do that you'll never try to push yourself to do better and you'll either stay at the same level or even regress.

The title song from your first EP talks about vegetarianism. Is it important part of your message? Are you all vegetarians? Do you support any animal rights groups?

Vegetarianism is a very important part of our message. I'm vegan and the rest of the band is vegetarian. There used to be a time in hardcore when vegetarianism was promoted a lot more and just like the message I mentioned earlier there have been bands that have advocated vegetarianism before but to me it's really important that that message is carried on. If only ONE kid listens to our song, reads the lyrics and thinks about it then that's achievement enough for me. Because that's the whole point of the song – we're not trying to tell people they should become vegetarians, we're merely saying 'look, there is a cruelty-free alternative to eating meat, why don't you check it out?'

There are lots of great bands that come from The Netherlands. Where do you think lies the strength of your scene? Is there much division between people who represent different styles?

I think the strength of our scene lies in the fact that we have so many bands, and new bands seem to be started every month. I wouldn't want to say that there's any competition between the bands but because of the number of bands you have to raise your standards to a decent level to stand out. There will always be some sort of division because you'll always have diehard kids from one style that won't budge to accept anything outside of their own style and that sometimes leads to prejudice.

In your band's logo picture you have a Nike shoes. Have you heard any remarks about it due to the infamous reputation this company has? What did you think of their recent campaign with Minor Threat image?

I think the Nike logo was a cool thing that suited our image pretty well when we started out.





We wanted a logo that was 110% youthcrew, we wanted a logo that was slightly over the top, and above all we wanted a logo that people would remember. We asked Per-Oskar from Damage Control to draw us something that would fit with these ideas. When he came up with 2 X'ed up hands tying the laces of a Jordan I, we all totally loved it. It was so over the top. People would see this drawing and instantly knew just what kind of band they were dealing it. Some loved it, and of course some hated it. But I guess that was the exact thing we were trying to achieve, presenting the band in such a way in the beginning. So I wouldn't necessarily look at it as a "pro-Nike" thing or so, more like a too cheesy way of saying we were a youth crew band. I definitely don't agree with everything this company has done (and I HATE the Minor Threat ripoff campaign!), I don't think anyone can. So please don't see it as if we're trying to promote Nike or say-

ing it's the coolest company ever. Nike is so big they can manage fine without us promoting them hahaha! But I think most people got it, which must be why we didn't receive that many negative reactions about it. We haven't used that logo in a long time by the way, we pretty much discarded it after the demo. It was a funny way of introducing the band and nowadays we try to be less 'superficial' if you know what I mean.

What values in the hard core scene do you consider to be the most important? On the other side what are the things that are bothering you in hard core the most?

Basically it's what I said, it's very important to me that kids realize that hardcore isn't the next bandwagon to jump on, that it could mean so much more to a person. The things that bother me are the prejudices different groups of kids have against others. I mean, I don't like every kind of hardcore or every band (as a matter of fact I'm very picky) but I don't go around saying 'kids that are into those bands are retarded' or stuff like that. This scene is small enough as it is and although I think it should stay elite in one way or another (and I mean that in the most positive way possible, hardcore should be a scene for kids that love what it's about and it shouldn't be ruined by people looking for fights or kids that have attitude problems) but slagging off each other all the time isn't going to get you anywhere. I'm not trying to preach unity at all because just because somebody likes the same music doesn't mean they're my friend but the fact that someone else is in this same scene and probably has some sort of morals that you can relate too should give you enough reason to stop hassling them.

Could you say something more about Not Just Words Records? Is it important to you to be on a DIY label? Are they going to be involved in releasing your new EP?

Yeah, the new EP is also on NJW Records. The most important thing about being on a label, for us, is that we get along with the people that run the label and with Not Just Words we almost feel like we're part of Ronald's family. If there's something we want to discuss we just give him a call or we drive over to his house

"It seems just like every day
I learn a little bit more
About hopes and faded dreams
Worth fighting for

There's no proof for sincerity
This is as close as you'll ever get

I took my chances
And changed my way of life
I just don't understand
Where you lost track

There's no proof for sincerity
This is as close as you'll ever get

Whatever happened
To promises we made
Will they be broken
Or just fade away?
It hurts to see you've gone
Another way

At least me edge is here to stay"

"As close As It Gets"



for dinner and Ronald will always listen to what we have to say. He watches over us like he's the proud father of quadruplets. And then there's Franke... Franke is not a man of many words but when he says something it makes an impact, and it's really hard not to like that guy because he's friendly and knows what he likes. These two guys run the label in their spare time and put a lot of time and energy into it and that's what makes it cool to us – they do this label because they love doing it and they just want to release bands that they like and that's why we love being on NJW Records.

Thanks a lot for doing this interview !

Robert, thanks a lot for this interview. Good luck with your zine and stuff. Stay crucial! For people who'd like to order our 7" check www.njwrecords.com XXX

**“...people change,
I know where I stand,
aware of my weaknesses
and my strengths...”**

www.astepart.net cescoyouth@gmail.com

Address: Stationssingel 87 B, 3033 HE Rotterdam, The Netherlands, Europe

XXX

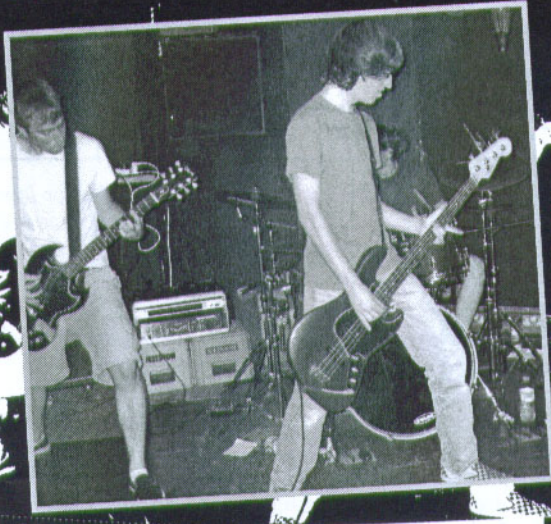
Fast, faster and faster... We are all rushing or being rushed, unfortunately not by positive force to develop yourselves, but by demands and social expectations. Time is money as I was told, and it couldn't be truer, but sad at the same time too. Sometimes it seems like our lives are nothing but movies played on some unusual and abnormal speed: we want fast food, fast love, fast results, fast rewards with not really much reflection or given thought to it. Unless of course it makes a profit, other than that longer consideration is unwelcome because if you stop for a second, you may think, and when you think you may start to question some things you do. Starting from early years at school where I was taught how to be ambitious and rivalry, and think nothing but about myself in order to get over other people's backs to be first and receive praise.

Now I walk in the city, rushing from place to place, getting angry with people when they are too slow or in my way. We run and run, until we are out of breaths and that's only when we calm down and sit down for a while. But it lasts only a short moment, until we can pick up again and join the race. And what are we chasing for? Some kind of empty promise of lifestyle we are forced to become part of? If you dare to reflect, you might be left behind. And when you are among the last ones, you become a loser and you know that nobody likes them because they are weak and unpopular.

I still think it is worth to slow down whenever possible, and reflect upon what we are doing, why we are doing it and how it influences ourselves as well as the outside world. Even though it might be more of a sign of a weakness in these times, there is nothing wrong with being considerate in my opinion. Most of the times it may really benefit us and decisions we make living alongside the others.

R.

XXX



WHAT GOES ON

The conditions are changing but I'm being told the exact same thing everyday

I got a thousand people watching over me, but they don't care if I'm doing okay

I find it hard to believe that I'm still alive

Surrounded by all this shit and I'm told "that's life"

We push so far over the edge

But no one's complaining, no one's using their head

Truth, you choose to push it aside

Reality, you choose to cover your eyes

Problems that exist you choose ignore

Because they aren't knocking at your door

I'm being told not to worry when in fact I'm being told nothing at all

At least nothing that matters because it seems no one cares that we're all going to die

What will it take? What will it take?

Some how I got to break you out

They're always talking and you're always listening

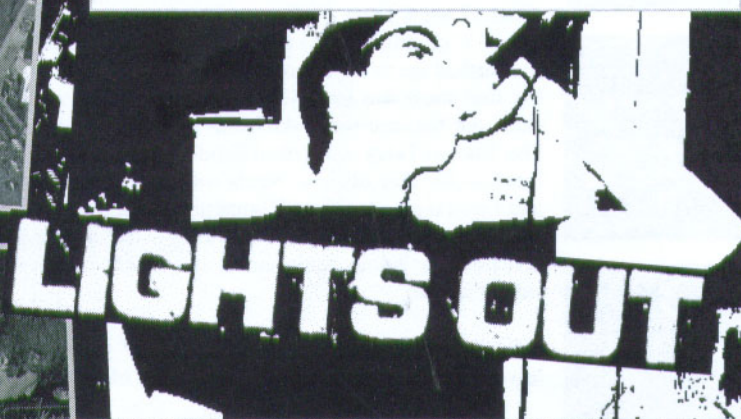
But do you ever question what they're talking about?

Truth, you choose to push it aside

Reality, you choose to cover your eyes

We've been pushed so far over the edge

But no one's complaining, no one's using their head



OVER THE TOP

So what do you want me to do?

I played by your rules and now I'm fucked

You chewed me up and spit me out

A faceless number in your eyes

Destroy myself for you, when you aren't even real at all

Destroy myself for you, when you just want me to fall

I look back at what I did to get what I wanted

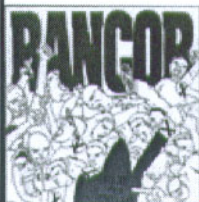
And it makes me sick

To think that you had me on a leash that tight

I know that was the last time

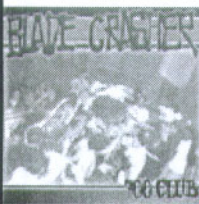
YOUNGBLOOD

I've decided to keep interviewing people involved in running record labels. These are individuals that make it possible for lots of great things to happen, but I don't think have that many opportunities to actually say what's on their minds. In this issue it's Sean from Youngblood Records. No need for introduction, I think everyone has or knows at least a few records released by this label. If not, do not hesitate and check them out at : www.youngblood-records.com. Desperate Measures, man !!!



Sean, thanks for doing this interview. Could you please introduce yourself and maybe tell what's keeping you busy on daily bases besides hard core?

My name is Sean O'Donnell. Aside from owning and running the label I like to run and skateboard. I also like to obsess over graphic design, music, movies and records. I work a day job and am a father of a seven month baby boy named Kenavan so I stay pretty busy. As I write this, it is the night before Halloween and my wife and I are getting stoked to dress up Kenavan in his costume so life is good. Halloween is the coolest fucking day of the year, no doubt.



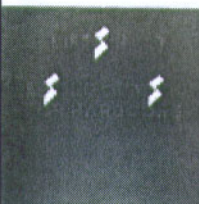
So how did you get into hard core/straight edge? What does it mean to you personally? What makes you still being involved in the scene?

Like a lot of people from the late 80's and early 90's skateboarding was my gateway to hardcore. I saw Black Flag, Misfits & Minor Threat logos in Thrasher and wanted to know more. Also, my family was friends with another family who we'd see during trips to the beach. The oldest kid in the family was about 17 when I was 11. One day he skated up to boardwalk and he had the cover of Judge "New York Crew" 7" (Schism press) under his clear grip tape on top of his deck. This intrigued the hell out of me and pushed me to learn more about hardcore.



My first show was in 1989 and I was twelve. My friends and I were scared as hell and we must have stuck out because some skinheads were grilling us about why we were at the show. On the bill was The Undead (very underrated band by the way. Bobby Steele got screwed by the Misfits), and a few local locals. One of those bands was On Life who had Joe Onlife as the singer. Seven years later Joe and I would go on to form Youngblood along with another friend by the name of Straight Tait.

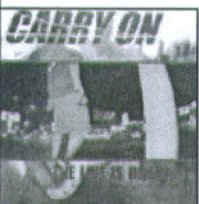
Straight edge and hardcore mean a lot to me and obviously I love it but I won't get in depth because I don't want to get all sappy. In the 16 years I've been involved with hardcore and punk I haven't gotten sick of it at all.



What's the idea behind Youngblood and when did you think of starting a record label? Did you have from the beginning a clear picture of Youngblood and the way you wanted it to work?

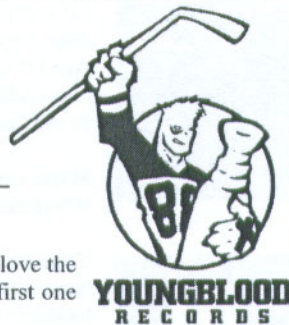
Well, Joe and I talked about doing a label for a couple of years before the chance came up. In late 1996, I caught wind that Rancor needed a label to release their upcoming 7". I kind of knew those dudes so I said "what the hell" and approached them. Labels during those years were much more low-key so it wasn't unheard of for an essentially non-existent label to ask a band. Tait was my college roommate and he wanted to do a label too so it all worked out.

We didn't really have a clear picture. When we started Youngblood, the whole youth crew revival was just taking off but we had no idea that we'd continue on to release more than a 7" or two. Luckily in the early days of the label, Joe was extremely meticulous in setting the tone with an awesome logo.



How do you decide whether to get the band on a label or not? Do you "sign in" bands?

RECORDS



What criteria do you consider?

We try to be kinda picky in what we release; the rule is that we don't release a record unless we love the band. We don't really "sign" bands. We ask them to do a record and let them know that if the first one works out, we'd love to keep them on the label.

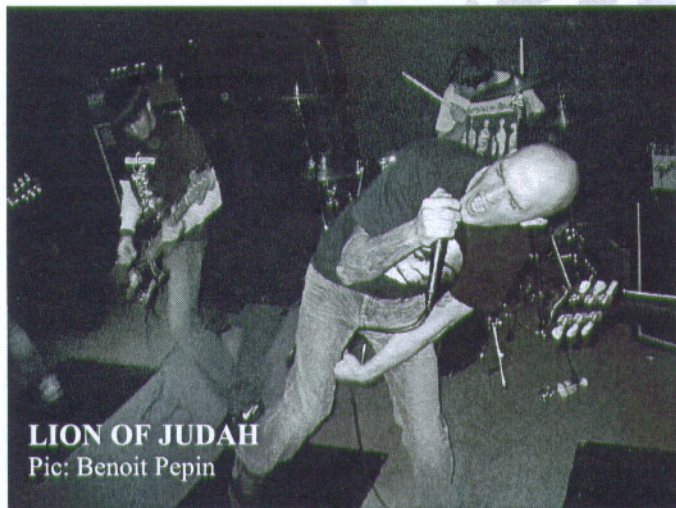
I realize that might not be a fair question to ask, but which of the records that you released would you consider a breakthrough for Youngblood? And why?

Lifes Halt "We Sold Our Souls For Hardcore" 7" was definitely the breakthrough record for us. A lot of people consider that record to be a classic and with good reason.

I think Lifes Halt and Desperate Measures were the bands that really helped define the label so far. Lifes Halt helped us branch out from the strictly youth crew realm and Desperate Measures were one of the first bands to really show a lot of pride in being on Youngblood. Almost every shirt they printed had the Youngblood logo on the sleeve or somewhere on the shirt. They did this without us asking them and I'll never forget how much pride they took on being on the label. It's something I'll always appreciate.

Were there any projects/records you were working on that never came out but you wish they had got released?

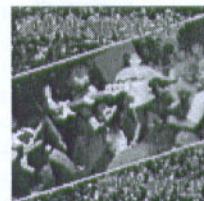
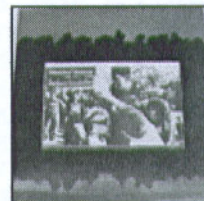
There were a bunch of records that were in the works that never happened. The number one record that comes to mind is the Striking Distance/Carry On split 7". That's the one that keeps me up at night. Think about how awesome that would have been! Striking Distance never recorded for the split but Carry On did. Unfortunately those tracks will never see the light of day because Carry On decided that the songs weren't up to snuff and literally took the masters from the session and threw them out. I have no idea what these songs sounded like but Todd and Corey swear up and down that the songs sucked. I tend to disagree and think the songs would have been awesome. Oh well. Much love to Carry On.

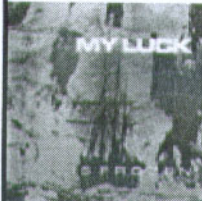


LION OF JUDAH
Pic: Benoit Pepin

How do you feel about where the label is right now and what direction would you like to see Youngblood taking? Are you satisfied with what you've done so far?

I'm very satisfied with what we've done so far. I've been told there is actually a Youngblood sound but the next few releases don't really fit the mold of what we have released. I'm referring to the Iron Age "Constant Struggle" LP and Lion Of Judah LP. The Lion Of Judah LP (YB-24) is still a few months away from being recorded but the Iron Age





LP is almost done. I can say for sure that the Iron Age LP (YB-23) is unlike anything we've released to date. I've heard demo sessions for this LP and it sounds like Vanishing Point era Underdog mixed with Age Of Quarrel AND Best Wishes era Cro Mags with even a little bit of 80's Profile Records-style crossover. After those two LPs, we will be releasing a 7" from CT's Fired Up (YB-25). They have more of the sound that I guess you could say Youngblood is known for.

What was your first hard core record you bought and what are your favorite ones of all times? What makes a great record for you?



The first hardcore record I ever bought would be The Undead "Act Your Rage" 12" on blue vinyl. Even before that I got DK "Bedtime For Democracy" and Sex Pistols "Never Mind" on cassette. My favorite hardcore records of all time are:

Chain Of Strength "True Till Death" 7"

Youth Of Today "Break Down The Walls" LP

Negative Approach "S/T" EP

Minor Threat "Filler" 7"

Misfits "Walk Among Us" LP

Samhain "Initium" LP

Welcome To Venice Compilation LP

Uniform Choice "Screaming For Change" LP

Abused "Loud And Clear" 7"

Unity "You Are One" 7"

Integrity "Those Who Fear Tomorrow" LP

Lifes Halt "We Sold Our Souls"/Carry On "The Line Is Drawn"/Desperate Measures "It's On Your Hands" 7"s

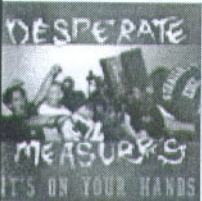
Floorpunch "Division One Champs" 7"

Striking Distance "March To Your Grave"

I'm sure I'm forgetting others but those are the first records that come to mind.

What makes a great record for me is a record that freezes a moment in time for you. With my favorite records I can remember distinctly the time of year, the age I was, how I felt and what was going on in my life when the record clicked and hit me like a ton of bricks. Hardcore and punk has had such a profound impact on my life and I don't think anything has influenced me more.

Are there any misconceptions or funny stories about Youngblood you heard circulating? What do you think of message boards of all the shit talking that's going on?



Luckily we don't get picked on a lot on message boards. I'm not sure why but it might be because we try to operate very honestly. The few times I have read bad things about us I've either ignored it or tried to rationally explain our side of the story. Someone once accused Youngblood of moving in a very "jock" direction when the Knock Down 7" was coming out. Haha. Aside from that, there are the occasional little things such as someone falsely claiming they were ripped off by us through mail-order or something. We're not perfect by any means but we try to fix any problems that come up mail-order or otherwise.

Message boards are a great way to communicate but I have no respect for the losers who contribute nothing to hardcore but gossip and idle threats.

So what are your plans for the nearest future? What's going on with Lion Of Judah LP?



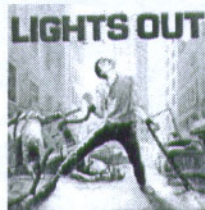
Lion Of Judah will begin recording the LP in January 2006 so keep an eye out for it! They have some cool plans for the artwork and guest appearances. A person that I really look up to agreed to play some guest guitar tracks on this LP but I'll keep it a secret for now. Aside from the Iron Age, Lion Of Judah & Fired Up records you can expect a 7"/MCD from the incredible Set To Explode! In addition to this the Knock Down Discography CD is compiled and mastered so that will be out soon. Also look for

discography CDs from Bladecrasher and Rancor sometime in the next year or so. Still fresh is the Carry On "It's All Our Blood" CD Re-issue (YB-5) and Lights Out "Overload" CD/LP (YB-20) both of which came out this past summer.

Thanks again for your time! Anything you would like to add?

Thanks for the interview. Keep up the good work with the zine. I like the slight 90's vibe to your zine with the coverage of 108, Abhinanda and Unbroken in issue #1. People like to put down the early 90s but I loved those days.

Shout outs to Lion Of Judah, Iron Age, Fired Up, Set To Explode, Lights Out, My Luck, Carl Cordova, Grave Mistake records, Malfunction Records, REV, Michael Walrave, Linas, Bitter End, Joe Onlife, Straight Tait, Quentin, Kromer, From The Start Zine, New America Zine, Town Of Hardcore Zine (R.I.P.?), Scott Magrath, Chris Alpino, Universal Peace, Dance Floor Justin, Klint Fudgebun, Fresh Gussy Perfect, Dave Brown, Carlos, Aram and all of Champion, Andy Norton, the legend Jim Winters, the entire DC hardcore scene (Youngblood's second home), Todd Jones, Colby and Champion Ship, Internal Affairs, Clif Shumaker. And of course THE STRAIGHT EDGE.



www.youngblood-records.com

BRINGIN' IT DOWN

#0.1



STRAIGHT EDGE ZINE

INTERVIEWS WITH YOUTH OF TODAY
THE FIRST STEP AND TODD X JONES

x BRINGIN' IT DOWN x
TOKYO STRAIGHT EDGE

#1 - STILL GOT SOME COPIES LEFT

Features interviews with Ray Cappo
[Youth of Today], Todd Jones [Carry On, Terror],
The First Step, short writing from Isaac Golub
[A Chorus of Disapproval, Amendment 18] and
partial reprint from MY RULES zine that originally
came out in 1982. X X X
Tons of cool photos by awesome kids
68 Pages, \$3 + Postage

#2 - OUT EARLY 2006

FOR MORE INFO, ORDERING ETC CHECK WEBSITE:

WWW.XBRINGINITDOWNX.COM

OR EMAIL:

OHASHI@JP-SXE.COM

X

X

X

REVIEWS.

So my approach is still the same. I review mostly stuff that I have bought myself during the last months. Of course you can feel free to send anything in if you want to have it reviewed. I don't care for quality or hype, because if something is sincere and inspirational, it'll grab my heart anyways.

There are as well a few records that I got to review. Thanks to everyone who mailed their stuff!

Again reviews are mostly positive, and some said it's just boring to read since I praise everybody haha. But it's just because I don't really look for negativity or things I don't like, as they are always easy to find. Unless the lyrics and attitude are plainly stupid, I try to appreciate everyone's effort and expression. Also call me ignorant or stubborn, but I'm still not interested in Hard Core products but only Hard Core records. R.

86 Mentality - Going Nowhere Fast CD (Grave Mistake)

If you have not heard them yet (which I doubt) I recommend you do if you wanna hear how Hard Core Punk should sound. Their song writing is incredible, with some pretty pissed off lyrics that I not always relate too but whatever. This CD consists of their recorded (both EP's plus unreleased studio stuff) and live songs, that just made me realize that 86 Mentality live are sharp as a razor. I'd be worth to buy this CD for these two live songs alone. Like the band wrote themselves they are not sure if this release is going to be their discography, or just something preceding the next record. I hope it's the second one and can someone tape me some more of their live stuff?

www.gravemistakerecords.com

A Step Apart - Structure EP (Not Just Words)

Wow, another EP! I was secretly hoping for a full length, but I am glad they released another record this year. These songs still sound refreshing and in total there are 4 new songs (it begins with intro). What can I say? It's still great youth crew core (like some would say) with some slower parts which is very good. Lyrics are still written from the personal perspective about things that are going on in the scene and our relationships. I think some of them are even more personal than before: "I needed you to turn to when I was blind, I needed you to turn to when I lost control, where was your shoulder when I cried for help". I dig this band a lot! If you liked their first releases, you won't be disappointed! I know I'm not and I think it's time for someone to release their both EP's and compilation song on one CD! Check out the interview too.

www.njwrecords.com

Affirmation - Demo 2004 CD-R

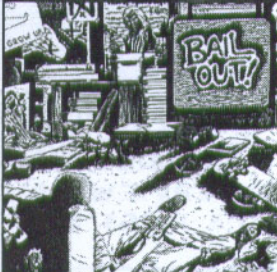
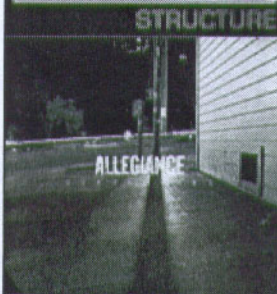
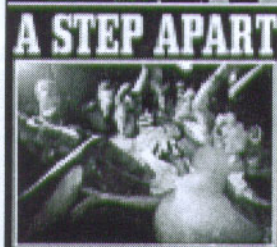
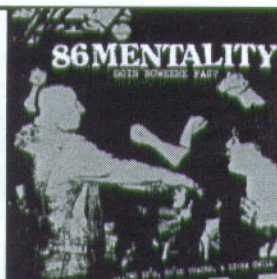
Ah, I'm so stupid. I got this demo last year, listened to it briefly in a rush a few times and put it away. I found it again while packing my stuff, gave it a proper listen and realized how good this band is! I hear such a great potential in Affirmation. Music must be inspired by bands like Chain or Turning Point (that they cover by the way), and they write mature and interesting lyrics. They are mostly a reflection on life, the scene, human relations... So yes, due to my ignorance I've missed now their first CD on Courage To Care that came out not that long ago. I'm not going to screw it this time! And you should check them out too if you're looking for something in the vein of old bands with thoughtful lyrics.

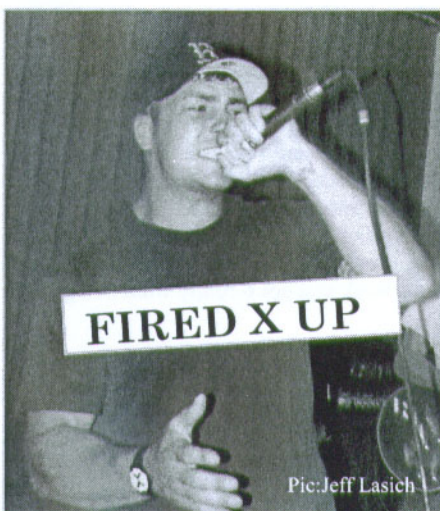
www.couragetocare.com

affirmationcore@hotmail.com

Allegiance - Overlooked LP (Rivarly)

I don't think that this band puts out that many records that much, but you can be sure that if they release something it's going to be awesome. I was really waiting for their full length because I think their EP is really great and I like demo too. And I must say that it was all worth waiting as





"I've got feelings and ideas I'm trying to convey. Searching for the right words to say to make my thoughts clear, not just lines or what you want to hear because my feelings are sincere and these words I believe. They come from what I see and the people around me. From the heart, what's behind my words, from the heart see what's inside. I know I'm not alone but it can feel that way, I can't hold back what I want to say looking for a light in the dark, hoping for at least a spark. Someone who knows where I'm coming from, let's me know I'm not the only one. Hear my words, you share my views, it lets me know if I'm getting through. From the heart, what's behind my words. From the heart see what's inside. I'm not hiding or worrying about what I say so take a look and you'll find I'm only coming from the heart."

Fired Up- "From The Heart"

this is simply brilliant! The new stuff sounds more mature, whatever it would mean, and still has what I like about Allegiance: short songs filled with emotions, very good vocals, and everything so energetic!

www.rivarlyrecords.com

Attrition - "Preface" Demo

This is some heavy sounding HC/Metal from DC area. I hear some influences by Converge, some Shai Hulud and other bands representing similar style. There are heavy riffs, melody, screamed vocals and ton of emotions in these 4 songs. Attrition really knows what they're doing and you can hear it in how songs are arranged as well as in the message part of the band. Lyrics are about living and being creative despite the apathy of everyday life, but there're some social topics as well. I'm impressed and hope they will be progressing as I feel there is lots of space for experimenting in this musical area. Definitely worth of your attention if you dig HC bands playing heavy and brutal!

No contact provided, unless I'm blind.

Bail Out!-EP (Headcount)

Skater dudes! The closest I ever got to skating was to step on my brother's skateboard and crash on the ground causing some quakes in the area. Thank you, I'll stick with soccer :-). But seriously this band plays fast and hard as they probably skate. Their songs are fast but with some cool twists and crazy guitar parts. Lyrics talk about different things, some relating to social issues, separation of church and state or talking about how little this society offers. *"Stereotyped, classified, given a number stand in line. Everyday closer to death. Pretty soon no time left"*. Songs are short, but you can hear also that they know their instruments well. Worth checking out!

<http://bailout.rosewaterrecords.com>

bailxout@yahoo.com

Charge - "Eye For All" 10" (Anger Management)

I know, Charge and this record are being mentioned already in this issue, but for me there's never enough about this band. So here is their demo that originally came out in 2002 as CD-R if I recollect right. It's been now released on vinyl (and I believe a CD as well) by Anger Management from Belgium. These are very first recordings by Charge, and you can hear that the band knew from the beginning what they wanted to play mixing different influences and creating unique style. Charge is amazing and of very high quality. Don't miss out on this band!

www.angermanagementrecords.com

Fired Up! - Demo 2005 Tape

This is another thing I've had for a while, but didn't give a proper listen. But hey, Fired Up! sounds amazing! Wow, wow, wow! I think musically I could see them among bands like The First Step and likes, but bit more aggressive. But don't rely on my poor reviewing skills anyway and check it out for yourself! These are 5 really well written songs (plus one instrumental), and apart from that their lyrics are really amazing! Mostly personal reflections on how we live with our beliefs among other people, forgiving for past mistakes, sincerity etc. but written in a good way. Stay tuned for this band because they're worth of your attention! I think Youngblood are going to do release something from Fired Up so be vigil! Great stuff right from the heart!

firedxup@yahoo.com

AFFIRMATION

"Just think, put yourself in my shoes, cos even when I win it feels like I lose. But I'm not finished yet there's more to come, cos I've got more strength that you give me credit for. Can try knock me down but I'll just keep getting up. Been forced to stand my ground, well enough is enough. All this pressure put on me, forced to prove myself if that's how it's going to be. Now it's reached breaking point can't hold back, it's time to put up or shut up, it's more than pride you lack. Well in your eyes, I'm not what you hope I'd be, if it takes more courage, then I hope it helps you to see. In your eyes, hope I'd be, all my courage helps you to see."

Affirmation- "Pressure"

Hardware Fanzine – The Complete Collection CD-R (Hardware Media)

Hardware was coming out in the years 1993-96 and this CD-R is a complete collection of all issues, interviews done with the zine, reviews of it in other magazines and other stuff. Lots of to read! I'm not really keen on zines in digital form, but this is different since the zine is long out of print and I believe the intention is of more documentary nature. I think it's a great idea for kids today to get compiled all the issues as well as everything that was created around Hardware as one. You'll find lots of record reviews, interviews etc. To drop a few names there are Cro-Mags, Sick Of It All, Ressurrection, Mouthpiece and many more. I think it should be on your shelf next to your Schism book you got recently from Bridge 9 Press! Definitely worth purchasing!

Hardware Media

1990 Pinehurst View Drive Grayson

GA 30017

Email: grandnagus69@yahoo.com

Icepick – Goldrush CD (Not Just Words)

Ok, I will shut up and stop talking about how many great bands there are in The Netherlands, but here is another one of them! I couldn't believe that they've been around since 1999 because I haven't heard of them, only after their demo was released in 2003. That was some right ripping core in the NYC style. I've liked that a lot, but this CD is good too. They really recorded some awesome tunes on "Goldrush" that remind me a lot of almighty Cro-Mags. They open with my favorite track called "Fellow man" and keep it up during the whole record. If you like NYHC get into Icepick!

www.icepick-hardcore.com

www.njwrecords.com

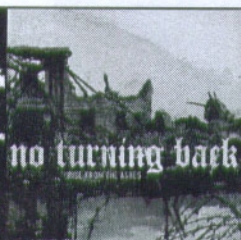
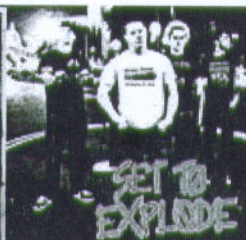
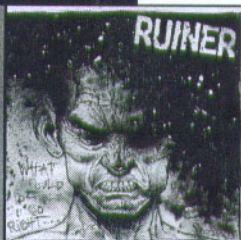
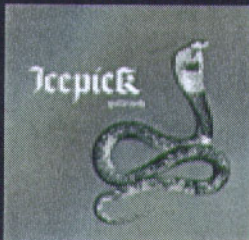
No Turning Back – "Rise From The Ashes" EP (Not Just Words)

These guys started 8 years ago at the age of 16! Respect for being persistent and pushing it forward! I liked their LP, but to be honest I didn't listen to it all the time. I was getting more excited about this EP since it'd shorter and more intense. And so it is! NYHC inspired Hard Core with direct lyrics about all the injustice and negative stuff that surrounds. Sounds all good to me and I think this EP is going to be widely available in the US on CD as I saw No Turning Back among Bridge 9 newest releases. Very cool, and I like the cover artwork on this one as well!

www.njwrecords.com

Remain – "As Sharp As Knives" EP (Light The Fuse/Not Just Words)

I have not heard of this band before, but what a surprise! There are 6 fast and straight forward Hard Core songs (plus one instrumental) on this EP. These Dutch dudes know how to keep it interesting so the record does not bore me at all. Lyrically it is about friendships, living in the society, speaking your mind, taking back



control etc. Topics you have heard before, but are relevant all the time to everyone. *"I can't stand all the ignorance, people unaware, just doesn't make sense. Education, expose to the truth, what is it that you have got to lose?"*. Shit, I really dig it more with every time I listen to it.

www.njwrecords.com

Ruiner – "What could Possibly Go Right..." EP (Firestarter/Grave Mistake)

Ruiner are out of Baltimore and formed in the fall of 2004. The music is energetic, melodic and at times reminds me of This Is Hell (in these faster parts) and Modern Life Is War with their passion and emotion behind these songs. Lyrics are written from more personal perspective about getting your life back etc. I can see big things coming for this band if they start with such a good record. This is amazing debut from these dudes and this EP is highly recommended (available as CD from 1917 Records)!

www.yourruiner.com

Set To Explode – s/t (Grave Mistake)

Hard Core Punk as fuck! Very good band with some experienced members in their line up (ex- 86 Mentality, Worn Thin, Striking Distance). This is 80tees inspired Hard Core/Punk, similar to what Dead Stop are doing, but with some slower, and more punk rock sounding parts too. Anyway it's a cool 7inch, and songs talk mostly about fighting while living in society, breaking out etc. Do yourself a favor and pick it up if you need something good to pogo around your room to!

www.gravemistakerecords.com

Soulfire – Demo 2005 CD & Tape

The band has written a few words in this issue, but the demo deserves separate acknowledgement as well. Soulfire has members of some new/old Hard Core bands from Norway and these 3 songs are simply amazing!!! Music and vocals work together perfectly. Musically it's somewhere between modern version of Burn/Absolution and some more classic NYHC stuff. Lyrics are spiritually (and by spiritually I don't mean religious) orientated and encouraging to more conscious lifestyle. I love this band to bits and hope everything will be working out well for them! Soulfire has soul and fire, the question is how open are you to experiment with it?

www.myspace.com/soulfirehc

State Of Disgrace – Demo 2005

It's good actually to hear a new band playing NYHC that actually is from NYC ! State Of Disgrace has everything in right places: Hard Core riffs with some melody and guitar solos here and there, hard vocals with some spoken parts and back ups etc. Lyrically they range from personal stuff of day to day life and surviving through troubles, to political content and social injustice. Songs are really well arranged and I'm looking forward to hearing more in the future! This has a real force!

www.myspace.com/stateofdisgracenyc

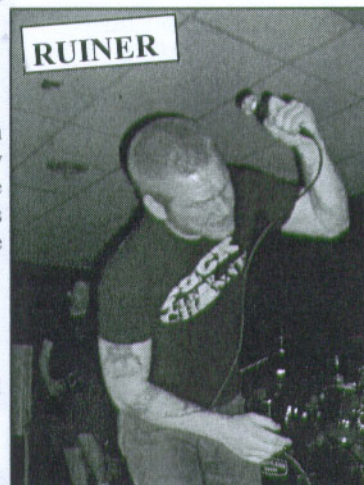
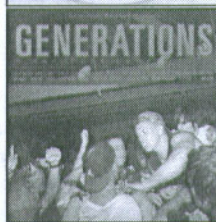
Struggle Against— "Unity-Demo 2005" CD-R

Yes, you are not mistaken Struggle Against embrace and are devoted to Posi Youth Crew, and I must say are doing it in a very decent way. Don't expect simple and poorly played HC, because this band stands out in my opinion. The songs are heaving some heavier sounding parts as well as very cool guitar melodies. Four songs in total from this Danish band that formed originally in 1999, and now makes it's come back after the members feel the same energy after all these years. Very cool !

struggleagainst@yahoo.com

The Frontline – "Withstand" EP (Grave Mistake)

It's always cool when I first see that a band has some good stuff to say in their lyrics, and then if music makes me move-I'm all happy. That's the case with most of the bands reviewed here and it's no different with this one. The Frontline are from Harrisonburg/Virginia and play very good, what some would call, Posi Hard Core. My favorite



track on this one is "Live And Learn". I can hear influences from bands like Insted and such. This EP has 5 songs, which are energetic enough to make me move and create a good record. *"We have built walls around our hearts, that locks our pain inside. We call it progression, it's such a digression. We must fight against the tide".* Good sounding stuff!

www.gravemistake.com

Time To Escape – Demo 2005 Tape

We Are Time To Escape... And You Suck! New band from DC: fast, angry and with attitude. 5 songs in total that don't let you to catch a breath as Time To Escape don't waste their time and just keep going. I really like this guys vocal, it fits very good into their pissed off style. Lyrics about going against the odds, wasted lives, how damaging drugs and drinking can be. I like the fact that even the lyrics aren't written in a really simple way. Really good tape for the moments when you just want to punch a hole in the wall. Keep it up!

www.myspace.com/timetoescape

Wait In Vain – Demo 2005 CD (Panic)

New band out of Seattle with Timm of Trial on vocals! These songs are so well written and of a good quality that it should have been the official release and not only a demo! It starts with some heavy riffing and double bass drum pedals, but then goes into some faster, some more melodic parts and everything mixes very well. I like their style a lot and maybe I won't be too original saying that I can hear some Trial influences in their tunes. Lyrically Wait In Vain talks about various subjects: from getting on with your own life and not following what mainstream proposes, to questioning traditions we are brought up in by searching for our own answers and truth. I respect the band for that a lot. Anyways, whatever I write it's not going to do this band justice, so your best bet is to check them out on line or get the demo right away if I was convincing enough!

www.myspace.com/waitinvain

www.panicrecords.net

Wasted Time- Demo 2005 CD-R

First of all I liked this band just when I checked out the lyric sheet. Good, good lyrics with some personal as well as social related stuff. Well, I don't really know much about Wasted Time apart from that they are from Virginia Beach and they recorded a very promising demo. Hard Core it is and very good too. I won't be comparing them to anyone as I'm not good enough at this game. All I can say it's rather faster, with harsh vocals



and cool bass lines. I'm having my ears and eyes open for this band and any future recordings. Wasted Time 7inch out in Fall/Winter!

wastedtimesucks@yahoo.com

V/A Generations CD (Revelation)

I'm not sure who picked the bands for this compilation, but if it's suppose to represent the current Hard Core bands from the US you should recognize most of the names on the cover. I guess in the next decade or so this compilation will be legendary J, but right now it's a good set of unreleased songs. My favorites are Lion Of Judah, with another great track who goes from fast core to slower parts, Go It Alone, Allegiance, Lights Out... I was surprised how heavy Blacklisted sounds on this recording. Have I missed something about this band? Wow! I think people might find it a bit disappointing if they don't see their favorite hard core band on it, but then how many can you fit onto one disc? I like it.

www.revhq.com





“Love, peace and
harmony?”

Oh very nice,
very nice,
very nice...

But maybe
in the next
world...”

The Smiths

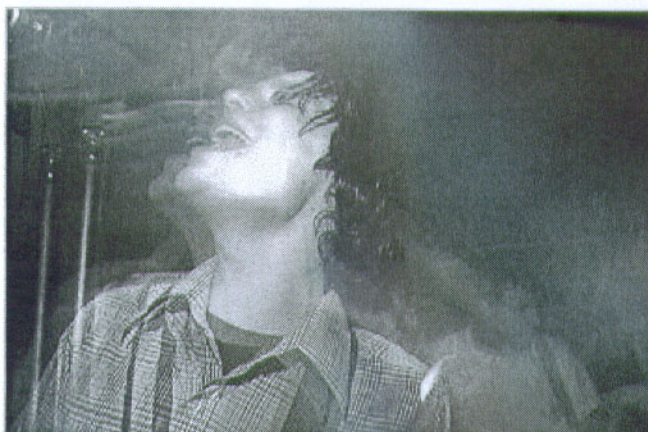
As much as I could have been absorbed by it, I have really lost any belief in any kind of idea of world peace. We don't stand a chance when we are not even able to generate peace in our own lives, not even talking and dreaming of it on global scale. Causing the least amount of harm that's possible...it's impossible and becomes a struggle.

But that's all what's left for me. Just to try in my own space and encourage each other to be more respectful and understanding. I'm still watching politicians and generals' hands, out of concern for those who may become victims of wars and governments' decisions. But each time it also reminds me of my hands, stained with guilt of own hurt and ignorance. It's the same thing, forceful and disturbing, each time I deny somebody's freedom for my own selfish reasons. Bombs keep ripping buildings apart, rifles shoot bullets of death, ideologies instigate hate of one group against another... and there is me with my own life and my private bombs, rifles and prejudices. As much as I've been disillusioned by world living in a global peace, I want to make an effort to at least find it in my own relations and create more peaceful path. Hopefully one day they will cross with these walked by others..."Love, peace and harmony? Oh very nice... but maybe in the next world" R.

“You’re allowed
to stay for a
while. I’m going
to need your time
and waste some



t i m e a g a i n ,
I would have thought by now you
would be so sick of trying because
I’m sick of hearing it so sick of
l i s t e n i n g t o i t .
Everybody tells me something differ-
ent, something different every time.



I’ll make up my
own mind just let
me sit here for a
w h i l e . ”

TEXAS IS THE REASON

est.2009



where a 'zine is forever...

D.F.P.S.

digital fanzine preservation society

crust

hardcore

grind

power violence

thrash

punk

straight edge

